

# WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, January 8, 2015

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## RIGHT SPICE

Heat is on for curry firm's expansion



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## STUMBLING

Saddlers miss chance for play-offs spot



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## Families sign up to fight for venue

HUNDREDS of residents who use an under-threat Walsall community centre have put their name to a petition against proposals to cut its funding.

Campaigners say they are looking into options to keep the popular Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre, in Stephenson Square, open. It is home to the estate's library that has been earmarked for closure under council plans to save £29 million in the 2015 to 2016 financial year.

Birchills-Leamore ward representative Councillor Tina Jukes said it was a difficult situation. "There are about 600 names on the petition which is going well. But we are also looking into other options to keep the building open. This building is not just a library, it is a day nursery and a community centre."

"The staff work with all ages from birth to the grave. It is the hub of Beechdale. For some families everyone uses the facilities. With Beechdale being classed as the most deprived area this centre is needed."

"At this present time no budget decisions have been made and it is also through consultation that residents can show how much the centre is valued," Councillor Jukes said.

## Burger King set to open

PLANS to open a new Burger King in the Saddlers Shopping Centre have received the go-ahead.

The fast food giant put forward a planning application to take over a unit in the complex. It has now been approved by Walsall Council officers under delegated powers.

It is not known at this stage how many jobs will be created. It comes after it emerged F Hinds is also opening. Meanwhile, Argos is moving out to open a digital branch at Crown Wharf.

# NO LIGHTS RELIEF FOR ANGRY TOWN

**MOST towns switch on their Christmas lights weeks ahead of the big day and traditionally take them down on Twelfth Night**

However in Brownhills a new tree display is going up – one month late. And instead of being referred to as festive or Christmas the town's display will be referred to as 'winter lights' instead.

The fir tree on the Miner Island in High Street is normally fully lit up in December. But for the last two years it has only been partially decorated resulting in a dispute between the council and a residents' group.

Incensed members of Brownhills Local Committee claim they forked out £600 for brand new ice blue LED bulbs and wiring for the island in 2012 which resulted in a stunning display. They claim Walsall Council removed it afterwards and it was never brought back.

### Badly

In 2013 and 2014 a smaller set supplied by the council was put up to decorate part of the tree.

This is the current display, but committee members say the town has been treated badly and they should have had a much better display.

Dismayed committee chairman Doug Birch said during last year the group and councillors for the town held talks with town hall staff in a bid to resolve the issue.

Funds were eventually allocated to replace the £600 set of bulbs, but it came too late for contractors to carry out the work in time for Christmas.

Mr Birch said he was annoyed and felt smaller towns

had much better lights than Brownhills.

"We are very angry about this. Our councillors pushed very hard to get us some better lights, but to no avail."

"Eventually, two days before Christmas Eve officers came to us and said they had got the funding for some new lights, but it was too late for the contractors to get them up. They said it will be done this month and the display will be called winter lights instead. We don't think it is good enough at all."

Committee member Barrie Poxon said: "The original council lights were up for about six years, but were condemned. They then put some rubbish lights up."

Walsall Council's cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Mohammad Nazir said: "The new lights, which are being installed for future use, will look amazing as hundreds of LED bulbs will bring sparkle and light to the Miner's Island." Councillor Nazir said he was not aware of what happened to the previous lights, due to the political switchover in power.

The committee said there were some unimpressive illuminated festive decorations on lamp posts along the High Street.



Barrie Poxon, aged 74, of the Brownhills Local Committee, with the smaller lights on the miner island in the town

## Club kicks off with centre takeover

DARLASTON Town football club has taken over the running of a council-owned sports ground and leisure centre in a turnaround in its fortunes.

Bosses at the team that was resurrected after a nine-month fundraising campaign will operate Bentley Leisure Pavilion, in Bentley Road North, for six months initially with a view to taking it on long-term.

Renamed Darlaston Town (1874) FC, the club has been given a six-month licence by Walsall Council to manage and run the sports and social facility until June 30.

This means that community football teams already using the sports pitches will continue for the rest of this season. The football club will generate bookings for the function rooms at the premises which have been under used for many years.

### Impressive

Club chairman Neil Chambers said: "We are delighted to have signed a short term licence with the council and are hopeful that discussions over the next few months will be successful and lead to a long-term lease, thereby

securing our future. The pavilion is an impressive and significant facility in the area and we are keen to ensure that it is kept as a facility available for use by the local community and businesses."

"We have to show the council that we have the ability to make the venue sustainable. It has not been run as a full time sports and social facility for many years."

The 141-year-old club folded in 2013 and was only reformed at the start of this season after fans and businesses came to its rescue to raise £5,000.

## Food zone is on way in market overhaul

A FOOD zone is to form part of the £1.75 million Walsall Market as work on the new look area is set to start in April, it has emerged.

The improved 70 stall market is due to be finished in early 2016, although some traders will have to be temporarily moved during the major project.

The work is due to be carried out in two phases.

A food zone with a canopied seating area will be created near to the existing Halifax bank under the latest proposals.

The Sister Dora statue will need to be slightly re-positioned with the popular Hippo sculpture also needing to be temporarily moved to the civic quarter.

However, it will return once the project is completed. Council regeneration chiefs have been looking to create a permanent pitch for the nearly 800-year-old market for more than five years.

The market has been temporarily based around The Bridge and the Park Street area since 2009, but council bosses had vowed to create a more modern long-term location for the popular facility.

The permanent location will house about 70 stalls in a back-to-back layout so traders face pedestrian routes and adjacent shop fronts.

## Date is set for carnival

PREPARATIONS for Bloxwich Carnival are in full swing with the date set for this year's crowd puller.

The show will be on August 1 at King George V playing fields in Stafford Road. Attractions include the Pat Collins Fun Fair.

The next carnival committee meeting is next Thursday in the community room at Smith House, Stoney Lane, Little Bloxwich, at 7pm. Anyone interested in helping out should just turn up.

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# OBE for college principal in honours



Jatinder Sharma

A COLLEGE principal has been celebrating receiving an accolade for his efforts, as part of the great and the good to be rewarded in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

The hard work and dedication of individuals around Walsall and the rest of the West Midlands was recognised last week. The principal and chief executive at Walsall College, Jatinder Kumar Sharma, received the OBE for his services to further education.

He studied financial management and was awarded his Masters Degree at the University of Dundee. Before entering into further education he worked and qualified as an accountant in public prac-

tice. In 1996, Mr Sharma joined City of Wolverhampton College as the head of finance and then moved to Walsall in a similar role.

He progressed to the post of vice principal before taking on the top role and became chief executive in December 2011.

Mr Sharma led the college through its Ofsted inspection in February 2013, where the Wisemore campus was rated as being outstanding. Walsall College was the first to get the grade under a new inspection framework in the UK.

Meanwhile, former West Bromwich Albion defender and trustee of the Professional Footballer's Association Bren-

don Batson has been given an OBE for services to football. Mr Batson, who is affectionately known as one of the Three Degrees along with Cyrille Regis and the late Laurie Cunningham, was awarded an MBE in 2000 and said he was humbled by the award.

He said: "I found out a few months ago after I received a letter telling me I had been nominated, then I heard nothing for months until now, when people suddenly start asking me how it feels."

"It is a great honour to know that somebody thinks the work you are doing is worth it. I am so humbled to be included in a list of people from all walks of life who are doing so many great things."

# Teen pregnancy help service faces cutbacks

**FUNDING** for tackling teenage pregnancies in Walsall will be slashed by £30,000 under new plans revealed this week.

The borough has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancies in the country and the issue has been a long-running problem. But the cash-strapped council is looking to reduce the funding, prompting fears it could lead to even more young mums.

## Noddy set to be host for concert

NODDY Holder is poised to return to his roots and host a concert at Walsall Town Hall. The former Slade frontman will compere the fundraising bash in aid of the Mayor of Walsall Councillor Pete Smith's charity appeal on March 27.

He said four former contestants from the BBC's The Voice had expressed an interest in performing on the night.

"We're looking forward to seeing Noddy back in the town. It's good of him to support these good causes in this way. The town hall has the capacity to hold about 1,000 people and we're hoping to fill it. We're also in need of a major Midlands act to lend us their support for free, and we will announce names soon," Councillor Smith said.

His chosen good causes for the civic year are the Black Country branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Bloxwich Community Partnership, MacMillan Cancer Support and cardiac rehabilitation centre, Heartcare based in Portland Street, Walsall.

The service in question - part of the council's Public Health and Youth Support Department - provides support and training for young people, mainly young women who are at risk of pregnancy or already pregnant. The council, which is looking to save £86m over the next four years, wants to slash £30,000 from its budget in 2016/17.

But Walsall Council's social care chief Councillor Marco Longhi, said cutting the cash could increase the teenage pregnancy rates. He said: "There's definitely a risk there that we may well see a rise in teenage pregnancies."

"This sort of saving could be very short-sighted and could mean a bigger cost to the public purse. Young parents, women in particular, may find it more difficult to get out there and plan a career for themselves."

"£30,000 is a drop in the ocean but actually could be extremely significant to the impact on women's lives."

To prevent an increase in teen pregnancies following the proposed cut, the council is looking at 'new working arrangements'.

In terms of plans for the better use of technology to address the problem, he added: "We have to communicate with them on their terms. The information has to be readily available."

## Diamond days are recalled



Diamond wedding of Bill and Margaret Clement from The Butts in Walsall

A COUPLE who first met at a social club in Walsall have gone on to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bill Clement was introduced to his wife-to-be Margaret by his brother at a dance at Caldmore Liberal Club. They got married at St Michael's church in 1954. The couple, who have lived in The Butts for more than 30 years, had a spell in Australia, in Sydney and Perth in the early 1970s.

Bill, aged 79, worked as a truck driver including more than 20 years at S Jones in

Aldridge. He earlier served with the Staffordshire Regiment in Egypt and Cyprus from 1954 and Territorial Army.

Mrs Clement worked at the Stanley Martin's clothing shop in Park Street, Walsall, and was also a leather machinist and was employed in a wallpaper business.

The couple have three children Diane, aged 57, Julie, 54, and Paul, 53, along with seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. To mark their milestone last month they had a short break in Cornwall.

# £12m town revamp is started at centre

THE regeneration of Walsall town centre has taken a step forward after work started on a second £12m cinema-led development.

The huge project to build a Vue cinema and restaurants near Tesco Extra is now under way and will be completed by the end of this year.

Work has also started on the separate development at Walsall Waterfront.

And a prime site for regeneration near to Walsall Waterfront is also being taken over by Walsall Council to pave the way for redevelopment.

The Lex site is being bought by the authority to enable it to be used for possible leisure or retail purposes.

The 2.2 acres is owned by the Homes and Communities Agency and the council hope it will allow more development opportunities and bring jobs.

It is not known at this stage what the land will be used for.

Cordwell Property Group are behind the nine screen Vue-led scheme on land off Littleton Street West.

Asian buffet chain Mimosa has signed up to open a 370-seater restaurant at the site.

## Retrospective permission

A home furnishing chain which opened last year in Willenhall has been granted part-retrospective planning permission to build a garden centre.

The Range in Willenhall wants to erect a garden centre with a pitched roof, palisade fence and open-sided canopy in the service yard of the site in Longacres Industrial Estate.

Officers recommended approval of the change of use, saying the site generally is already established as a garden goods retailer through previous planning permission.

## Night of nature

TICKETS are being sold for a night to seek out bats and moths in Willenhall on April 10. The Creatures of the Night will be at Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. To book, email [bowersm@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:bowersm@walsall.gov.uk) or call 01922 654220.

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## Attacker tried to get man's mobile

A schizophrenic attacker who punched and threatened a man for his mobile phone has been handed a community order.

Leroy Simmonds approached Jason Smith and his girlfriend at about 10.30pm on May 31 in Bentley, Walsall, and repeatedly asked him for his mobile phone, prosecutor Mr Lee Marklew told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Simmonds, aged 23, threatened to put something inside him if he did not hand over the phone, Mr Marklew said.

When the victim said he did not have a mobile, Simmonds punched him.

The attacker then ran off empty-handed but was arrested a month later at his home in Star Close, Bentley. When interviewed by police he admitted punching Mr Smith but denied threatening him, the court heard.

The victim's girlfriend has since said she is now scared of walking around the local area, Mr Marklew said.

Simmonds admitted attempted robbery and common assault, and was given a three-year order.

Two psychiatric reports revealed he suffered from 'mild schizophrenia'.

## Gas works bring delays

MOTORISTS are being warned of delays when gas main works on a busy town centre route get under way next month.

It is being carried out along Bridgeman Street, Walsall, from January 10-19 while the project is completed on behalf of National Grid Gas.

The route will be shut between the junctions of Station Street and Bradford Place to replace a cast iron main with more long-standing pipes.

The road is expected to be closed from 6pm on January 10 until 6am on January 19.

## Alert on works

MOTORISTS will face delays during roadworks in Walsall starting next week. This is to allow for manhole frame and cover repairs along Bell Lane, at the junction of Sycamore Road, Walsall, on January 13. Restrictions will be in place 9.30am to 3.30pm.

# Disorder by football fans on trains increases

THE number of recorded crimes on West Midlands trains and railway stations by football fans on matchdays has risen in the last two years, new figures suggest.

Violence, public order offences and drug use are among the crimes recorded by British Transport Police since 2012.

Railway stations including Wolverhampton, Bescot near Walsall's Banks's Stadium, and The Hawthorns train and Midland Metro stations are among the areas where offences have occurred.

New figures released through a Freedom of Information request show there were 65 offences classed as 'football related' in 2012-13.

But this figure rises to 73 offences between 2013-14 across the West Midlands.

British Transport Police says it has worked with train companies to step up efforts to ensure fans and other passengers have trouble free journeys on matchdays this season.

Assistant Chief Constable Ste-

phen Thomas, who oversees the force's matchday policing, says alcohol can play a part in disorder but said the majority of fans provide no problems.

Public order crimes are the highest number of offences recorded by British Transport Police with 104 incidents in the last two years. The number of violent crimes recorded did fall from 10 in 2012-13 to three in 2013-14.

Officers say they use intelligence to identify which clubs supporters follow as part of investigations.

Wolverhampton Wanderers fans were recorded to have committed 23 offences in the last two years, West Bromwich Albion supporters 18 and Walsall four.

Aston Villa fans committed 34 offences and Birmingham City supporters 35 while one crime was recorded against a Kidderminster Harriers follower.

Asst Ch Cons Thomas said: "The vast majority of travelling fans cause no problems at all."

"Sadly, however, some supporters do go too far, overstepping the

mark by becoming offensive and even violent.

"Thankfully, these incidents are relatively rare and carried out by a minority of travelling fans, but when they do happen they can be extremely frightening and intimidating for other passengers."

Activities to monitor disturbances includes monitoring trains, officers travelling with fans to and from games by train, plain clothes work and preventing problematic fans travelling and taking action where required.

# Jail for eight cousins in car parts export racket

By Adam Burling

**EIGHT men from the Black Country are behind bars after cars across the Midlands were stolen to order, dismantled and the parts shipped to the Middle East.**

The gang was sentenced for a conspiracy to steal 4x4 Toyota and Vauxhalls, which they would scour the streets of the Midlands for.

The men – from Bilston, Walsall, Brierley Hill, Dudley, and London – appeared at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty to conspiring to steal motor vehicles and were jailed for a total of 28 years and nine months.

There were 81 thefts and attempted thefts throughout Staffordshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, West Mercia, Derbyshire and Leicestershire between March 2012 and April 2013.

## Weighed

The makes and models of the vehicles stolen were predominantly Toyota Hilux, Toyota Hiace, Toyota Landcruiser and Vauxhall Brava vehicles, which were taken from properties across Warwickshire in Rugby, Tamworth, Atherstone and Kineton, as well as throughout West Mercia in Bromsgrove, Worcester, Kidderminster, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth and Telford.

The stolen vehicles were dismantled with the engines and gear boxes being exported to the United Arab Emirates, while the remainder of the chassis and shells were weighed in at scrap yards.

The gang had found out that the parts, in particular those from Toyota 2L engines, were in high demand in the Middle East so they set up a rapidly-expanding operation.

A ninth man Yawar Jaffari, 42, from London, had links to the United Arab Emirates and acted as the go-between of the scam.

He would take orders from contacts abroad and pass them on to his accomplices in the Black Country, who then stole whatever had been requested.

The vehicles would then be taken to the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate in Cannock Wood Street, where the men worked from three units.

They started out at a site in Torton



Colin Brookes, aged 30



Paul Kendall, aged 42



Richard Edwards, aged 29



James Taylor, aged 26



James Bailey, aged 36



Rocky Butler, aged 35



Terence Gould, aged 46



Leslie Taylor, aged 33

Paddock, Kidderminster that was owned by Rocky Butler, of Dudley, but needed to move to bigger premises as demand rocketed.

All eight men were cousins and had grown up together in Blakenall, Walsall. Once they got involved with Jaffari, they began stealing the cars and within weeks had a regular export line running.

The cars were stolen after dark, and the thieves planned ahead by scouring streets for the models they wanted.

Their routes would be drawn up in advance, and as they expanded they moved further afield to work their way across the Midlands.

Police welcomed the sentences handed out and said many traders had been hit when their work vehicles were stolen.

Chiefs said the complex investigation had spanned months and involved officers from a range of forces.

Leslie Taylor, 33, of Rosewood Court in Bilston, was jailed for four years; Rocky Butler, 35, of Fullwood Crescent in Dudley, got five years and four months; James Bailey, 36, of Edison Road in Walsall was sentenced to five years and four months; Richard Edwards, 29, of Chapel Street in Brierley Hill got two years; James Taylor, 26, of Harden Close in Walsall was jailed for two years and eight months; Terence Gould, 46, of Botany Road, Walsall got two years; Colin Brookes, 30, of Hunter Crescent in Walsall was sentenced to two years; and Paul Kendall, 42, of Irvine Road in Walsall got one year and four months.

Bailey leased out the units in Cannock

and, along with Butler and Leslie Taylor, was seen as one of the leaders of the racket.

Police said Leslie Taylor was the main thief, while Butler split his time between stealing the cars and handling the parts after they had been dismantled.

The rest were seen as footsoldiers keeping the operation moving, with Gould passing the car shells on to scrapyards.

Luke Moore, 26, of Leys Crescent in Brierley Hill and Gary Winter, 31, of Gosscote Place in Walsall have previously been convicted and sentenced for their parts. Moore received a suspended sentence and Winter was sentenced to 16 weeks in prison. Jaffari, 42, of Carlton Road in London, got three years and nine months.

DC Karl High, of West Mercia Police, said: "This was a lengthy investigation."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Car dealer will take on car park

A public car park is being taken over by a neighbouring business after expansion plans were approved.

Mercedes Benz was granted planning permission to use the 56-space car park in Dudley Street, Walsall.

The aim is to increase its display area and create more room for customers, with extra jobs expected to be created in the long-term.

Walsall Council has been carrying out a parking review in the town and planning officers said it was under used.

### Networking event for businesses

A second event for businesses to secure multi-million-pound building contracts on a town's revamp will be held later this year after the success of the first one.

Around 70 suppliers and traders attended the Meet the Buyer event at Walsall College last year.

The event allowed them to meet the key developers and find out about work opportunities.

Another event is planned for the spring with new contracts.

### Pub undergoes a £165,000 revamp

A pub in Staffordshire has been given a £165,000 revamp and rebranded to focus on food.

The Wheatshaf, Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, is now part of the Flaming Grill chain specialising in burgers and steaks.

Flaming Grill is part of Spirit Pub Company which owns around 800 managed pubs across the UK. Other brands in its portfolio include Chef & Brewer.

### Collage expert gets residency

COLLAGE expert Elizabeth Rowe is the new artist in residence at The New Art Gallery Walsall.

Based in Birmingham she uses magazine pictures and old books to create fresh images. While at the gallery she will create a temporary work for its Garman Ryan hall.

The exhibit unfolds from February 17 to April 5.

### Victim is treated

A MAN was hit by a car in Walsall on Friday. The collision happened in Littleton Street West at 1.45pm and he was taken to Manor Hospital, but his injuries were not thought to be serious.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE festive specials of Celebrity Mastermind (BBC1) were a timely reminder that a) you can be a celebrity without anybody knowing who you are, and b) celebrities can get on Mastermind without knowing much about anything.

JIM Naughtie on Today (Radio 4) takes this winter's prize for being the first to warn us of "freezing frog."

LEAVING aside any concerns about Whitehall's latest plan to turn women into trench-fighting soldiers, aren't you a wee bit depressed at headlines such as "Female troops on the front line by 2016"? I hope by 2016 we won't have any front lines.

HIGHLIGHT of the festive viewing for me was yet another repeat of The Muppet Christmas Carol. When the film was released in 1992 the cast came to Birmingham on a promotional trip and I got to chat in a hotel bedroom with Miss Piggy, Kermit and the Great Gonzo. Best interview ever.

OUR changing language. Or to be more accurate, the Yanks' changing language. The US news channel CNN carries an online report about the Nigerian families whose girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. It is headlined: "Holidays Without Our Missing Girls." The distraught mother of one girl said: "It is a bad Christmas." The father said: "Every Christmas, we used to be complete and happy." The whole essence of this story was about loss at Christmas. No-one said a word about "holidays." But in the United States the word Christmas is deemed to be non-inclusive and politically incorrect. So they insert the word "holidays" instead, even when the result is gibberish.



FAT, flabby, wheezing, unhealthy. It is hard to move through the sales crowds without concluding that we Brits are a grossly unfit bunch. So when the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (who has never served a day in uniform) declares: "Our armed forces should reflect the society they serve," he is spouting dangerous nonsense. Our armed forces should be the toughest, strongest, brightest young men and women we can possibly recruit. We want Her Majesty's finest, not the Queen's Own Lardasses.

IF, like me, you are suspicious of anything connecting you, or your money, to the internet, here's something new to worry about. We all know computer webcams can be switched on by a malicious virus without the owner's knowledge. A reader writes of his fears about a new generation of smart televisions with voice-command function. Once you agree to the terms and conditions, the software is installed and you can change your internet-connected TV to a new channel simply by asking for it, via a microphone within the set. My reader asks: "If the microphone is active, what else might be transmitted from one's living room or even bedroom? How long would it take a hacker to override any safeguards, or am I being paranoid?"

WHY does God allow innocent shoppers to be mown down and killed by a lorry in Glasgow? Within hours of the tragedy a reader who describes himself as a Christian emailed me: "Many people (non-Christians) find it difficult to accept that God does things His way which is not the way they would like. However, this has to be accepted and not doing so is in itself a sin." So that's all right, then. And if you don't think it's all right, you're a sinner. If you reckon the Islamic State is a tad extreme, you'd be amazed what some Brits believe.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Patient safety shows improvement

THE number of NHS safety incidents where patients suffered harm or death at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust fell by more than a quarter in a year, latest figures claim.

There were more than 19,000 reports referred to the National Reporting and Learning System by the Trust between April 2012 and March 2014.

Safety incidents are classed as

unintended or unexpected incidents that could have or did lead to harm for patients receiving NHS care, with the scale ranging from 'none' to 'death'.

Those that caused some degree of harm or death dropped from 4,816 between April 2012 and March 2013 to 3,426 from April 2013 to March this year.

Incidents classed as causing 'se-

vere' harm fell by more than half from 111 between April 2012 and March 2013 to 45 the year after.

The number of deaths reported fell from 22 in 2012/13 to two in 2013/14.

Bosses at Walsall Manor Hospital said the trust has invested in improving safety measures and extra nurses among others.

Trusts must report all patient

safety incidents to the NRLS, regardless of cause or fault.

The figures help clinicians to identify where and how incidents occur to prevent them recurring.

Amir Khan, medical director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "We are pleased that the two identified periods show there has been a decrease in the number of deaths and incidents."

# Firm may be forced to fill in limestone shafts

**A BLACK Country firm that is filling in limestone mineshafts could have its work stopped by the council due to concerns about safety.**

Planning conditions have not been met by Tipton-based M&A Doocey to carry out the work in Winterley Lane, Walsall, it is claimed. Traffic safety issues, mud on the highway and a lack of information about the materials being brought to the site have all caused concern.

An enforcement notice is being sought to force work to stop within a month.

The controversial plans were passed last year after a protest petition and letter opposing the proposal for the land arrived too late to be considered by Walsall Council's planning committee.

Sixteen shafts each up to 12ft wide and 65ft deep had been discovered on the site, councillors were told during the meeting.

## Phases

The plan was for non-organic material to be crushed and used to fill the holes that would be capped off by concrete with restoration material on top.

The works were intended to take 12 months and be carried out in 10 phases moving south across the site from the canal.

The issue was on the agenda for today's planning committee at the council.

If councillors choose to push ahead with enforcement action, all operations

must stop including the importation and extraction of materials, the secure fencing off of exposed mineshafts and the subsequent restoration of the site to a green field condition suitable for the safe grazing of horses.

In a report to the committee, head of planning and building control David Elsworth said: "Officers have visited the site and can confirm that the site is not being operated in accordance with the agreed conditions. Accordingly, harm to the environment is arising through a number of ways."

He said the lack of passing places placed a risk to other road users including pedestrians. "It is acknowledged that the site has a series of mine shafts and the enforcement notice is seeking the secure fencing off of these shafts to prevent accidental falls or further collapse."

M&A Doocey was unavailable for comment.

## Concerns over alleyway

COMPLAINTS have been made about the state of an alleyway in the Black Country.

Residents have raised the issue about the pathway between Broadmeadows Road and Lichfield Road, Willenhall.

The Lib Dem Focus Team is now contacting Walsall Council to demand action is taken.

It also comes as concerns have been raised over bushes growing over the footpath between Milestone Way and Coppice Farm Way.

Councillor Ian Shires said: "A resident from the Wood Lane Estate also asked if anything could be done."

## Firm to favour more curry



Hares' Moor owner Sally Hares with some of the products which they hope to expand

A Walsall food firm which creates DIY curry kits for online supermarket giant Ocado, plans to expand this year after securing new investment.

Hares' Moor Limited was set up five years ago by Sally Hares, who started selling bags of fresh ingredients to create homemade curries in a butcher's shop.

Since then the firm has grown and plans to use the new cash investment to extend its product range and move to a bigger HQ. The company, in John Street, has secured

a loan and equity investment for an undisclosed sum from Coleshill IM Group Limited. It is also hoped that the cash will help the firm build relationships with major UK supermarkets.

Bosses said they expected to be able to take on another two or three staff next year to boost their four-strong workforce.

Managing director Mrs Hares, of The Butts, Walsall, said: "We now sell to Ocado but I'm hoping to take it to other supermarkets."

## Vigil for victims of attack by Taliban

AROUND 150 people attended a candle lit vigil in Walsall to remember the children and staff who were shot dead by Taliban gunmen at a military public school in Pakistan.

At the sombre event outside St Paul's at the Crossing in the town centre, residents held banners and posters. There were prayers, poems, speeches and a minute's silence.

The gathering was organised to mark the attack in Peshawar on December 16 when extremists opened fire killing 132 schoolchildren aged between eight and 18-years-old, teachers and other workers at the site.

According to reports, around 148 people died.

Among the speakers to address the crowd was Councillor Aftab Nawaz, of St Matthew's ward. He said the Pakistani community had been left stunned by the atrocity.

"The attack on the children in Peshawar was not only an attack on a school or on a nation, or even a faith - it was an attack on humanity by people without humanity, without religion and without a conscience. Those that committed this act do not belong to or are in any way connected to any faith," he said.

## 1970s murder mystery night

PARENTS and supporters of a Walsall school are in for a sports whodunnit treat when bosses stage a seventies-themed murder mystery.

Supper will also be served at Hylesville Tower School when senior staff perform the theme production 'Who killed the football manager?' on January 30.

Guests are invited to dress up in clothing from the period.

Tickets cost £12 or £40 for a family of four and include a drink on arrival and 1970s two-course supper. To book call 01922 624374.

## Housing due

DEVELOPERS plan to put a house on land once occupied by a builders' merchants. The proposals are for a four bedroom detached house in Green Lane, Aldridge near the A452 Chester Road junction. Walsall planners are recommended to approve the scheme.

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## Refunds over tax total tops a million

WALSALL Council has yet to refund more than £1 million in overpaid council tax, it has been revealed.

Walsall Council was £1,422,210.73 in credit for council tax accounts up until October this year, a Freedom of Information request has revealed.

The council said the accounts went back a 'number of years' but the majority of credits that have arisen this financial year are in the process of being refunded.

Residents leaving their properties with no forwarding addresses and people dying have been blamed for delays in issuing refunds.

Ruth Allen, information rights officer at the authority, said: "The vast majority of older credits relate to closed accounts where the council tax payer has left and authority does not have a current forwarding address. A significant number of these are less than £5."

"A number of the credits relate to deceased estates where the council are awaiting the outcome of probate to determine who the refund should be issued to."

She said that when residents' accounts were in credit all effort is made to refund the person, usually by Bacs transfer direct into their bank account.

## Hundreds of apprentices

UP to 800 apprentices will have been taken on in Walsall within three years as part of a council-led scheme, according to latest figures.

Walsall Council say it is anticipated the hundreds of pre-apprenticeships or full apprentice posts will have been secured by March 2015.

The £2 million Walsall Works project aims to help 16 to 24 year-olds get into work in a bid to drive down unemployment.

There are incentive payments of up to £6,000 for businesses to train each young person.

## Closure on way

A TWO-WEEK road closure will be in place for carriage-way resurfacing works along Harden Road, between the junctions of Chestnut Road and Coalpool Lane, Walsall. It will be done overnight from 7pm until 6am from January 15-28 in an attempt to minimise disruption.

# Lillie's ready to communicate after boost



Lillie, with her mum Kim

SHE'S the little girl who desperately needed a special machine to help her communicate with her eyes. And now Lillie-Grace Scott's dream has come true after an anonymous donor stumped up the final amount cash to buy it.

The three-year-old, of Willenhall, has just started to use the pioneering Eye Gaze machine thanks to an amazing response from readers after an appeal in the Express & Star.

Her parents Kim Windsor, 30, and Ben Scott, 33, of Barmouth Close, Short Heath, said the £7,000 equipment arrived shortly before Christmas and that the family and her speech and language therapist underwent training in how to use it. Miss Windsor said: "We had got just under

half the money we needed with people giving us donations after seeing Lillie's story in the paper. The online fundraising website had £900 in it one day from someone from America, then when we checked it again someone else had put £3,800 in it and that was enough. We couldn't believe it.

"It was just amazing and we're so grateful to everyone for what they gave us. She has been using the Eye Gaze now for two weeks and is just getting used to it. It really made Christmas for us and we can see the difference in her reactions. She is usually uncomfortable around new people, but already we've noticed she is calmer now."

Powered completely by her eyes, the computer will act as a communication device to allow her to

talk, learn and play in much the same way as scientist Stephen Hawking has. And in the future the New Invention Nursery School pupil will be able to use it to do her school work and even use the internet.

The technology, made by Tobii, connects the user with a light that is shone from the screen into the user's eye. When that light bounces back from the user's eye it hits the screen directly where the user is looking. The family is continuing to fundraise for an 'Innowalk' machine, which will cost £11,000. So far the fund has reached £5,200 after an anonymous donation of £2,000. To find out more and donate visit [www.gofundme.com/Lillieseyegazefund](http://www.gofundme.com/Lillieseyegazefund)

# Jilted lover locked up for trying to burn down house

Report by John Scott

**A SPURNED lover who tried to murder the teacher who jilted him by burning down her home as she slept started a 16-year jail sentence this week.**

Gary Griffiths poured almost six litres of fuel through the letter box and pushed a cigarette and lit paper in to the house, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

When that failed to spark a blaze, the drunk 44-year-old used a lighter to ignite more petrol splashed on the front door step of the terraced property in Bloxwich Road, Walsall.

Former girlfriend Tracey Powell, who works with Prince's Trust students at City Wolverhampton College, shouted for help from her first floor bedroom after being woken by a missed call from him.

She recalled: "I asked him, 'what are you doing?' He said, 'I told you not to upset me.'" He then drove away, leaving her to her fate.

### Texts

Griffiths had earlier warned in text messages he would burn down the house before launching the arson attack around 3am on March 4 – one declared: "S\*\*t happens when you upset me, ha ha."

Luckily the uPVC front door was badly scorched but did not catch light.

Fire crews who rescued Miss Powell warned there could have been a 'conflagration' if fuel fumes had exploded into a fireball in the hall which was packed with boxes of possessions after she moved in just three days earlier.

A CCTV camera at a nearby shop showed Griffiths – who had a previous conviction for threatening to kill social workers – spending one minute 42 seconds painstakingly pouring petrol through the letter box.

He bought a can full of 5.86 litres of fuel from the Jet Service Station on Lichfield Road, Shelfield, half an hour before launching the potentially deadly attack and Judge Robin Onions observed yesterday: "This was a chillingly determined attempt to burn the woman's house down."

Miss Powell, who left the address after



The scorched front door at the scene of the 'chilling' arson

her brush with death, revealed in a victim impact statement: "I have been overwhelmed with anxiety and nerves since this happened."

"I am struggling to sleep and have dreams about him. I am very frightened of Gary and am concerned he won't stop this pursuit of me. I don't know his limits. If he can't get to me he might hurt my mum."

Griffiths, of Proffitt Close, Brownhills, who struck after an attempt to win back Miss Powell with a bunch of flowers he delivered to her at work, had been convicted of attempted murder by a jury after an earlier trial.

He had denied the offence but admitted arson. He was jailed by Judge Onions who told him: "If there had been an explosion of petrol vapour and fumes and the house had

gone up, the means of escape of Miss Powell would have been cut off because the stairs were very close to the front door. She would not have got out."

Griffiths had been jilted in February following a two-month romance with Miss Powell and the judge continued: "You spent a considerable amount of time after she ended the relationship brooding over what had happened. This was a planned attempt to kill."

"You had no regard for the safety of those who could have been affected. Having set the fire you left Miss Powell to her fate."

Det Con Dave Franks, who investigated the case, said: "It was an abhorrent crime, aspects of which were certainly chilling. It is difficult to comprehend what goes through the mind of somebody who can



Gary Griffiths, who has started a jail term for attempted murder

do something like this." Stephen Davies, Acting Sector Crown Prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said: "Unable to accept the fact that the victim did not wish to rekindle their relationship, Gary Griffiths sought revenge on his ex-partner and planned to burn down her house while she was asleep in it."

"Once he had set fire to the house, rather than call for help, Griffiths watched from across the road as the flames took hold of the downstairs of the house and then left the scene of his crime knowing that the victim was trapped upstairs."

"Through his reckless actions, he not only put the victim's life in danger, but that of the neighbours and the emergency services who were called out to tackle the blaze."

## Volunteers help clean up at park

VOLUNTEERS have staged a community clean-up event at a beauty spot in Great Barr. The event took place at Queslett Nature Reserve with members of the parklands' friends group grabbing the gloves and bags to pick up waste.

Several bags of litter were removed from site along with old television sets. Teams also pruned hedges back and did general maintenance work.

It comes weeks after an awareness campaign was launched to stop people on off road bikes rutting up the land.

## Speeders caught by police on road

MORE than a dozen drivers suspected of speeding along a busy route in Walsall were stopped by police.

A speed check operation was carried on Birmingham Road on Christmas Sunday morning, with the highest speed clocked at 56mph. In total there were 13 motorists alleged to be speeding and two cars seized for the driver having no licence.

It was part of a speed operation carried out by West Midlands Police traffic officers during a crackdown.

## Acorns Hospice cash from choir

A CHOIR has helped raise £600 for Acorns Children's Hospice. The sing2gether Streetly Community Choir put on a performance to collect cash for Acorns.

They handed over the money to the hospice in Walstead Road, Walsall.

The group meets at Streetly Community Centre every Thursday from 7.30-9pm. For details call 07929 089813 or visit [www.sing2gether.co.uk](http://www.sing2gether.co.uk)

## On way to walk around Malverns

RAMBLERS head to Worcestershire on Sunday for a 7.5 mile circular walk with views of the Malverns.

It is an easy walk on fieldpaths and tracks and non-members are welcome.

For details on the Walsall group contact the walk leaders on 01922 614389 or 01922 685271 or visit [www.walsallramblers.co.uk](http://www.walsallramblers.co.uk)

## Appeal for gifts

A HOSPICE in Walsall is appealing for any unwanted presents to be donated to its network of charity shops. St Giles Hospice has stores across Walsall. Visit [www.stgileshospice.com/shops](http://www.stgileshospice.com/shops) for more details.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

KEANE flips! So screamed the headline of one national tabloid after it emerged that the fiery former Republic of Ireland star had sought a confrontation with Villa on-loan midfielder Tom Cleverley at his home.

Apparently, Keano – to those not familiar with The Beautiful Game, he is the one with the beard like Saddam Hussein while he was on the run – thought Cleverley was behind newspaper stories about training-ground bust-ups during his short-lived spell as Villa's assistant manager.

So how did Keane flip exactly? Did he:

(a) Grab Cleverley in a headlock, lift him over his shoulder, and then slam dunk him on top of his water feature?

(b) Confront him in his kitchen, slap him about a bit with a fresh kipper, before continuing the fight outside, culminating in a spot of grappling in the swimming pool?

(c) Ring his doorbell 'very aggressively' and wait outside, before deciding Cleverley was not at home and driving off.

The answer, by the way is (c). Not exactly Keith Moon, is he?

□□□□□

A judge has granted an injunction to stop boy racers wreaking mayhem on the streets of the Black Country and surrounding areas, saying there appeared to be 'complete lawlessness' around the problem. The move follows a similar injunction which was granted in 2012.

It is hardly a new problem. I remember it first rearing its head around 15 years ago, when hundreds, if not thousands, of the blighters used to meet up around the Merry Hill centre and neighbouring industrial estates every Thursday nights.

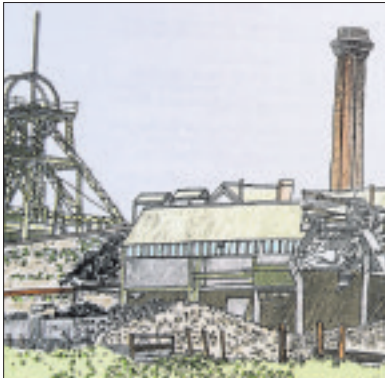
During the research for one story about this, I even had to buy a copy of a boy racer magazine which had allegedly been encouraging these meets.

Boy, that took some front. I sat for around five minutes outside the newsagents in my totally conventional and unmodified car, trying to work out a strategy for buying this dubious publication without feeling too embarrassed. I dunno, maybe buying a few 'adult' magazines to hide it in or something.

Anyway, the magazine did cast a rather fascinating light into this bizarre sub-culture. For example, it came with a free CD featuring timeless tracks such as 'Big Up Your Spiff' or 'Time To Get Ill'. Like you hear in the background at all the best dinner parties.

Strangest of all was the fact that many of the people who attended these meetings were not from the vicinity at all. Some of them would diligently drive their garish-looking vehicles all the way from places like Brighton or Leeds just to experience the delights of a Thursday night KFC car park in Brierley Hill.

I've often wondered what happened to these people.



Leighswood Colliery, which closed in 1881



Part of 'The New Elms' illustration in the book



The picture of St Mary's Church showed in all its glory

# Artist is on a roll with book of town

One amateur artist has made sure his beloved Aldridge is never forgotten, reports **LISA O'BRIEN**

**IT all started when artistic great-grandfather Maurice Ivor-Birch bought a huge roll of paper at a car boot sale in Can-**  
**nock in 1969.**

The retired quality control engineer set to work, drawing wildlife images, such as bees, worms and mushrooms for children but ran out of ideas when he had covered 18ft of paper.

Looking for new inspiration he then turned his attention to his home town of Aldridge – and found he couldn't stop.

The 73-year-old self-taught artist has sketched nearly every building in the town and has now had his illustrations published in a book.

The railway station, the old Avion cinema, feature cottages, churches and pubs are among the buildings he has lovingly penned. The roll of illustrated paper now reaches 116ft and continues to grow.

The talented artist, who lives in Mountford Crescent, has drawn a lot of the buildings from memory as they have long since been demolished.

Some were replicated from photographs and he has now resorted to Google Earth to look for more subjects.

Mr Ivor-Birch said he was delighted by the publication of his first book, which is called Aldridge on a Roll and also features stories about him growing up in the town.

The book has been published by Mapseeker Archive Publishing in Aldridge and around 500 copies have been printed. He has drawn more than 100 buildings on the roll of paper and around 75 of them have been used in the book.

Mr Ivor-Birch, who first draws the im-



Maurice Ivor-Birch, from Aldridge, with copies of his book Aldridge on a Roll

ages with pencil followed by ink, said: "Hopefully it will be a legacy, showing the way Aldridge used to be. It was the most beautiful village when I was a boy. It's still a lovely place to live but many of the buildings have gone.

"I just wished my children could see Aldridge as it was, and hopefully, this way, they will. I've added to it all the while, not every day but when the mood takes me but I've done more this year than any year. And I'm still adding to it. It's just a hobby. I wish I could get the scroll displayed somewhere."

He spent several years compiling his illustrated history until in 2013 the roll measured 55ft. He unveiled his scroll of drawings at a charity event in aid of the Mayor of Walsall's Appeal at Mapseeker Studio and at Aldridge Social Club.

Then in a burst of creativity he doubled the number of drawings over the last 12 months.

The great-grandfather-of-two first sketches his artwork on normal drawing paper before tracing it onto the scroll and going over it in pen. He works from his conservatory at home.

Although the sketches are black and white on the scroll, colour has been added to the ones printed in the book.

Mr Ivor-Birch was born in Bloxwich and grew up in Grange Avenue, Aldridge. He also lived at Kent Close and Herbert Road in the town before settling at Mountford Crescent five years ago. He said: "I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Nobody can replace it. It's like heaven to me.

"There are stories in the book about me growing up in the area. It's from when I was a boy until I got married at Aldridge Parish Church in 1965.

"I began drawing the old almshouses which have been knocked down now. I moved on to the Moot House near the church. It's a superb big building.

"I put Aldridge Parish Church on and the old Cooper and Jordan Boys School next door which I had attended."

He said he had also drawn the buildings that sat along Aldridge High Street but were demolished in the mid 1950s to early 1960s. Mr Ivor-Birch, who also has two children and six grandchildren, said: "I remember them as a boy. There was a mixture of pubs and shops. It was a busy high street." He said the book, which costs £14.99, came about after he met bosses at Mapseeker Studio and showed them the scroll.

Mr Ivor-Birch signed copies of his book in Morrisons, Aldridge, over three days before Christmas, and more than 100 were snapped up as Christmas presents. He said: "The feedback I have had so far has been good."

Paul Leslie Line, from Mapseeker Archive Publishing, said Mr Ivor-Birch had achieved what Shakespearean scholar Samuel Timmins did, when he captured in sketch form the many Georgian and early Victorian buildings of Birmingham in The Buildings of Birmingham Past and Present. He said: "Maurice Ivor-Birch has achieved what Samuel Timmins did for Birmingham, but for his beloved Aldridge." For information on how to get a copy, call 01922 458288.

## WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THEY'RE coming to a street near you. It's election year and pretty soon MPs, candidates, activists and hangers-on are going to canvass you.

It sounds a bit sinister, like some form of guerrilla art. But for some reason it just seems like the right thing for any aspiring politician to do – to connect with the electorate.

It all seems a bit unfair to me because they'll descend with no prior notice or appointment and might well interrupt dinner or at a crucial moment in the Breaking Bad box set.

Even so, if they do come along, use this chance to grill them because it's been half a decade since we had a General Election and it's about time they were properly put on the spot by the people they serve.

I'm looking forward to May because after that we'll hopefully have a government that's actually getting on with the business of governing, rather than just going through the motions for the next few months while parties try to curry favour with an ever-more-weary electorate.

Parliament has run out of things to do. This is because of a little thing known as the Fixed Term Parliament Act which effectively sets the date for a General Election at exactly five years since the last one.

### Distance

In order to create a 'strong and stable' coalition with the Liberal Democrats, David Cameron dispensed with the Prime Minister's right to decide when the time was right to go to the country.

But the Tories and Lib Dems have exhausted the things they can agree on and are now trying to distance themselves from each other.

The Lib Dems are effectively finished around these parts. In the May 2014 council elections the party found candidates to stand in a mere 27 per cent of wards.

David Cameron likes to refer to this as the most important election in a generation. He may have a point, beyond his own survival. Although I'd suggest it goes further than that.

This is not the sweeping change from one party to the other that we saw in 1997 when Tony Blair took charge. Rather, what we're dealing with here is a re-hash of 2010 when the country delivered a hung Parliament. Back then it was compared with the election of 1974.

But with the uncertainty that created, Harold Wilson went back to the country again before the year was out and was rewarded with a majority of three. The Fixed Term Parliament Act stops that.

We get one shot at saying who we want as our MP for the next half a decade. Before that, it's up to them to bombard us again and again with leaflets, promises and scare tactics.

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Walsall Chronicle



# Flying flag for Willenhall's bright future

WHAT a year it's been! The main highlight for us has been putting Willenhall back on the map with the launch of the Willenhall flag back in June and more recently a permanent reminder of the flag rising outside Willenhall Library.

The project started back in February with flag design entries then onto a panel of judges where they selected the final six for public voting – the winner chosen through various public voting stations, online and our Facebook group.

It has always been our target to promote our hometown and the town

flag is doing just that! It's been great to see Willenhall folk, local businesses including big chain names and WITFC embrace the flag!

We have also had a great year fundraising for our chosen charity Cancer Research through supporting various local community events, including Heritage Day back in April, Race for Life, Willenhall Carnival, the Best of British Town Event and more recently The Xmas Town Event and with our Christmas Charity calendar sponsored by The Royal George pub with all proceeds going to charity, this year, we

raised £920 bringing a total combined effort of £3,352.00.

Thank you to everyone who played a part! We also took part in the towns World War I event where this occasion we raised just under £100 for Help for Heroes.

We would also like to thank the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Peter Smith who has taken time out to support various projects in Willenhall and helping to bring Willenhall out in the public eye via the media.

Here's to 2015  
**K PLANT**

## Journey's end came as no shock

REGARDING your article concerning the suspension of the review section of the website for the Magical Journey at the Belfry.

The story went on to state that Santa was given extra training after children were given unwrapped presents from him.

We visited on December 13 at 5pm with my granddaughter and her cousins and all three of them were given unwrapped presents so it doesn't seem that the training has changed anything.

We also had to queue up in the cold for at least 15 minutes with three young children aged two to five-years-old in order to get in to see Santa.

At a total cost of £127 for four adults and three children it was just not worth it.

So when we heard that the Magical Journey has ceased trading – we were not really surprised.

**C ASTBURY**  
**Walsall**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Walsall.chron  
@expressandstar.co.uk

## Parents' worst fears realised in Pakistan

AS we parents and grandparents drop our children off at school, the worst possible nightmare is that they will not see them again but that is what happened in Peshawar, with the murder of 132 innocent schoolchildren.

They may have been living in a different country and follow a different culture but they were members of the same human race as ourselves.

I have been to northern Pakistan and Kashmir three times over the last 18 months doing work in many schools and was given a very warm welcome as a western visitor and as a Christian. Everyone was getting on with life, trying to make a living, building up a family, finding a home and sending their children to school. The only difference being their average wage is around £4 a day and their life span will be a third less than ours.

Out of the tourist hot spots, people are kind, wishing to share what little they have and genuinely pleased to meet up. Regrettably in every part of this world there is evil, and those who commit evil acts. In such dark times we try to comprehend how anyone could enter a school and slaughter 132 children. For evil to flourish it only needs good people to do nothing.

**COUNCILLOR IAN ROBERTSON, Walsall**

## Concerts provide a cash boost

WILLENHALL Musical Society would like to thank the people of Willenhall, Bilston, Darlaston and Wednesfield for their terrific support at the Poppy Concert in October to raise funds for the British Legion and SSAFA.

We would also like to thank Sainsbury's in Wednesfield – where we sang carols on three separate evenings – for being so welcoming. Thanks also to their customers for their outstanding generosity. We raised a further £427 for our charity.

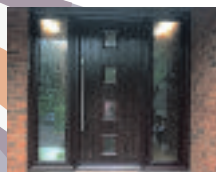
We raised £1,950 in total and presented a representative of each charity with cheques to the value of £975 each at a carol concert at Mattesley Court, Moseley Estate, on December 12. If anyone would like to join us or if you want to check out what we have been up to in the past you can find details on our website [www.willenhallmusicalsociety.co.uk](http://www.willenhallmusicalsociety.co.uk)

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# Cliff on track for 100th milestone celebrations

A FORMER rail worker for almost 50 years celebrated his milestone 100th birthday with his favourite meal – a prime piece of sirloin steak.

Cliff Weaver from Walsall was joined by close family including his 95 year-old sister to mark the occasion at the Park Inn in West Bromwich.

The centenarian was originally from Yorkshire and started off as a junior rail porter and also worked as a clerk before coming to the Birmingham with his family. He worked in the signal box at Marston Green and then relocated to Hamstead where he was head porter and met his wife-to-be Lily.

They got married at St Paul's Church, Golds Hill, West Bromwich in 1943 and lived at Hill Top. The couple, who had no children, moved to Walsall more than 30 years although former schoolteacher Lily passed away more than six years ago aged 90.

### Heater

Mr Weaver's niece Pat Geddes and nephew Bill helped to organise the celebration of his birthday on December 20 with the meal out with family. This included his nonagenarian sister Doreen.

Pat said staff at the Park Inn hotel, near West Bromwich FC, had treated Mr Weaver, who was a ticket inspector during the later stage of his working career, like a king.

This included bringing over a heater to keep him and his sister warm.

Pat, aged 70, said: "He just wanted a steak meal and he wanted us to be there," she said.

"It is his favourite meal he loves a steak. It is fantastic to reach 100. When we first suggested doing something he said 'what is so special.' He is very generous."



The centenarian seen with his cards and a balloon to mark his milestone



Cliff Weaver seen with his wife Lily on their wedding day in 1943

## Fake Frozen dolls warning

Parents are being warned that counterfeit dolls from the hit Disney film Frozen containing harmful chemicals may be circulating in Walsall.

The Anna and Elsa dolls sing the chart topping song Let It Go from the movie, together with Olaf the Snowman.

Disney has confirmed the product, which originates from China and has no manufacturer or importer details, is fake.

Trading Standards officers in Wal-

sall said it is important people check with them if they believe they may have one of the counterfeit dolls.

It is believed the items may contain chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects and infertility in men.

They have issued the warning after a member of the public contacted Trading Standards alleging the counterfeit products were being sold on market stalls and on social networking site Facebook. Call Trading Standards on 0345 4040506.

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Team's on the ball for growth with kits



Front, Glyn Marston, with back, from left, Chelsie Guy, Josh Roberts, Lee Walters, Dale Williams, and Liam Marston

PLAYERS at an up-and-coming dodgeball squad have unveiled their new name and kit as part of the expansion of the club. The Black Country Knights is the new adult team that has grown out of Walsall Warriors. The Warriors remains the name of the junior arm of the club set up by former marathon runner Glyn Marston.

The Knights are celebrating the arrival of their new snazzy blue and black shirts. Mr Marston says: "The design of the new shirt is proving quite popular. People from other teams are buying them and a female player from the United States also ordered one. We're have got plans for the club which we hope to see grow in membership. We're hoping the new shirts will help to raise our profile."

The team currently plays in the Midlands based Northern Conference Division Two League. The Black Country Knights train on Mondays at Willenhall Youth and Community Foundation, in Gomer Street, Willenhall, from 7-9pm and Wednesdays at Portway Lifestyle Centre, in Banbury Road, Oldbury, from 7pm to 8pm.

# All-weather £250k pitch lined up by university

NEW plans for a new £250,000 floodlit all-weather pitch at a university complex in the Black Country have been revealed.

Aston University is looking to create the modern facilities to replace the synthetic pitch at the site next to the West Bromwich Albion training ground in Great Barr on the Walsall and Sandwell border.

The project has been awarded £247,000 of funding through Sport England and will help expand the community sports programme run through the university.

Proposals for the project, which includes replacing lighting and upgrading fencing, have now been submitted to Walsall Council planners.

Subject to council planning approval, work on the new pitch is anticipated to start in early spring and be completed by mid-summer.

The university, which has the outdoor recreation centre off Birmingham Road, is looking to increase the number of 14 to 25-year-olds regularly participating in sport in the area. The current surface has suffered from drainage and flooding prob-

lems, prompting the plans.

It is hoped competitive hockey associations from the Walsall, Sandwell and North Birmingham areas will join clubs in using the multi-use surface.

Bosses hope sports clubs in the area who have been struggling to find available, safe, good standard facilities to play matches throughout the week and schools will also be able to use the pitch.

Aston's director of sport, Mike Kirkman, said: "We recognise that we have an important role to play in encouraging students to live healthy, active lifestyles and to continue playing sport during their period of academic study."

"Our new pitch will help

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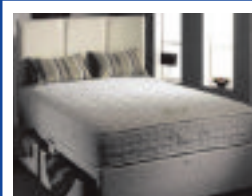
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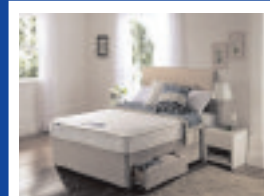
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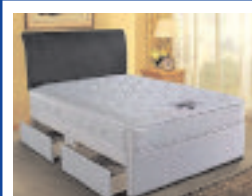
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# It's nearly showtime for new Wetherspoons pub

AT LAST the wraps have come off the front of a new public house that will soon open its doors.

The scaffolding has come down at The Bloxwich Showman that will welcome its first customers on January 27.

Operator JD Wetherspoon which has celebrated its 35th anniversary has pumped £1.5 million into revamping the old cinema building that was until three years ago was home to a youth centre.

Delighted Bloxwich East ward representative Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick was instrumental in getting the pub chain to consider taking on the site, in High Street, Bloxwich after its previous plans to transform the former Bulls Head also in the town centre were scrapped.

## Partnership

"I contacted Wetherspoons's acquisition team to express that we would love them to come here. When the Electric Palace youth club moved out of the old cinema talks were held with Bloxwich Business Partnership and regeneration officers at the council to see what could be done with the building left behind. It all just took off from there really."

"There were some initial concerns from residents about the lack of a car park, but if people are going in for a drink they shouldn't be driving anyway and the pub is easily accessible on the 301 and 302 buses with stops close by."

The Bloxwich Showman, which is expected to create up to 45 jobs, is ahead of work schedule. The name of the pub takes its inspiration from King of Showmen Pat Collins who helped set up the famous fun fair and



Councillors Shaun and Julie Fitzpatrick outside the new Wetherspoons

## Give blood new year call

RESIDENTS are being urged to take up an alternative New Year's resolution and donate blood. Rather than ditching the chocolate or signing up to the gym, the NHS Blood and Transplant team is suggesting giving blood to potentially save lives.

John Roche, Senior Marketing Coordinator, said: "The beginning of the year is a great time to make changes to your lifestyle. And it is the perfect time to give blood. If knowing that your blood is helping to save sick

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NHS Blood and Transplant particularly needs to ensure supplies of the universal blood group O Rh Negative which is often in short supply as demand is so great. It also needs rarer blood groups including A Rh Negative, B Rh Negative and AB Rh Negative.

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## Appeal to replace lifeline scooter



Jamie Rich with his gran's mobility scooter that was destroyed in a garage fire at her house in Streetly

AN appeal has been launched to replace a great-grandmother's mobility scooter which was ruined when a fire ripped through a garage in Walsall.

The scooter was a lifeline to 86 year-old Glenys Rich.

Now an appeal has been launched for anyone who can help towards getting a replacement to ensure she does not have to remain housebound.

The fire at the garage in Cherrywood Road, Streetly, is believed to have been sparked by a tumble dryer.

Other items such as a table, garden furniture and the dryer were also wrecked in the blaze but insurance will cover their cost.

However, the scooter isn't and the family need to foot the bill for a replacement.

Grandson Jamie Rich who lives with his grandmother said she relies on the equipment to go out around three times a week.

The chef, aged 27, said: "It is not always possible for me to ferry my nan about."

To help call the Express & Star on 01922 444316.

## Mystery of teen found hanged in his room

THE tragic death of a 15-year-old schoolboy who was found hanged amid allegations of bullying by other pupils remains a mystery, an inquest heard.

Joshua-James Maddox was discovered at his home in Persehouse Street, Walsall, last year. He attended St Thomas More Catholic School in Willenhall.

His family claimed he was the victim of bullying which included verbal abuse, being punched in the chest and threatened with a knuckleduster which had been reported. They were also concerned about the education support being provided. But at an inquest at Smethwick Coroner's Court the school said they were unaware of the teenager - who suffered from learning difficulties and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) - being a target and had no record on their logs.

The only real incident of note had been when he stole erasers and had been grabbed by another student round the neck in the aftermath, leading to necessary punishment being carried out. They added education support was being provided.

The teenager, who was taking medication for ADHD and also suffered from autism was previously a pupil at Deansfield School

by Craig Hughes

in Wolverhampton, and had to move down a year when he joined St Thomas More to complete his GCSEs.

On the night before he was found in dead in the bedroom in January last year he had been sent to bed early for taking food that was meant for the family meal. Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said claims of bullying remain in dispute. He recorded an open conclusion.

His mother Michelle, aged 36, said: "Josh was a character, he really, really was. He was like the class clown he always used to like to make people happy." St Thomas More headteacher Peter Mayland said: "St Thomas is a school where every child is known and loved. We take bullying very seriously and deal with it effectively when it is reported. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Josh."

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## FOCUS ON ALDRIDGE



Delight – Councillor Worrall

### Birthday time for bus route

A BUS service initially paid for from a Walsall councillor's pocket is still going strong 12 months after it was officially launched to serve passengers in and around Aldridge.

Richard Worrall used his town hall allowance to launch the 35A Sunday and bank holiday route last year so that residents in Rushall have public transport.

People in the area had been without a similar service since 2010 when National Express West Midlands changed its 997 route, leaving the Barns Lane community without a Sunday and bank holiday timetable.

The 35A was officially launched on Boxing Day last year with the help of funds from West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, Centro. "Today marks the first anniversary of the Centro-sponsored Sunday and bank holiday service between Walsall and Aldridge via Barns Lane/Westgate," Councillor Worrall, ward representative for Rushall says.

"It's going really well. There is nearly three years of contract left."

**IT STOOD** at the heart of a busy transport interchange for decades and was seen by hundreds upon hundreds of commuters each day, but now, a Cradley Heath clock will be ticking away on display in Aldridge.

The long-standing clock is to be restored and preserved by volunteers at a museum in the Black Country. The four-sided timepiece is more than 16 ft tall but has had to move to make way for the £1.9 million overhaul of the bus station.

Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge was approached by Centro whether they would like to take the landmark which is believed to date back to 1983. Keen volunteers will now set about repairing one of the damaged clock faces and look to put it up outside their base in Shenstone Drive or modify it to be based inside.

Chairman Martin Fisher said: "They didn't want it to be just chucked away and so it was offered to us and we accepted. There are lots of people that have seen that, in the context of going catching the bus and seeing that clock."

"It is the whole essence of the transport museum, it is not just the vehicles. It is all the things associated with these vehicles."

Walsall councillor Richard Worrall, a member of Centro, approached the museum if they wanted to take the clock. He said: "I was asked if I knew anyone, and I thought that is a great place to relocate it. Today's equipment is tomorrow's history."

New passenger information and



The clock as it was at Cradley Heath improved waiting areas are being created at the Cradley Heath interchange. The work is being paid for through the Better Bus Area Fund, a £10 million pot to improve public transport in Brierley Hill, around Merry Hill shopping centre and Cradley Heath.

The museum, originally based in Birmingham, moved to Walsall after a wrangle with the city council. It then had to move from its new base in Northgate before finding a permanent home in Shenstone Drive two years ago.



Martin Fisher, who helps at the museum, seen with the clock which is being restored at Aldridge



The planting ceremony

### MP helps in planting of sapling

MP FOR Aldridge-Brownhills Sir Richard Shepherd helped residents to plant a tree to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

He was invited by organisers The Friends of Rushall Parks committee to the ceremony held last month. Other guests included ward councillor Richard Worrall. The rowan sapling was planted on a green off Lichfield Road in memory of those from Rushall who gave their lives during the conflict that started in 1914.

There is also a memorial stone near the area's library to and the committee said together the tributes form a lasting statement in honour of those who perished. Sir Richard told the gathering that it was an honour for him to take part in the ceremony, and he praised the residents for their efforts.

The Friends' group commended him for his involvement in Rushall over the years and wished him well in his retirement. After the ceremony hot drinks were served at Hayleys cafe nearby.



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## Repairs on way for crumbling pavement



Councillor Diane Coughlan in the Market Place, Willenhall, with the red bricks which she says are coming loose

REPAIRS will be carried out to crumbling paving in Willenhall Market after years of wear and tear. Councillors for the town are holding talks with highways officers over a project to replace the brick surface, which has become loose over the years.

Willenhall South councillor Diane Coughlan said there were safety issues with many paved areas in the town centre, but Market Place was particularly affected.

"I have been speaking with officers for months now to come up with options to try and repair the pavements. My concern is that with the tough financial situation facing the borough if action isn't taken now, then in four years time the pavements will be even worse and there may be no money at all to fix them. We need to act now to preserve the infrastructure that we have for the future because of the deep Central Government cuts. It is a pedestrianised zone except for the businesses and traders who load and unload goods, and disabled motorists."

The red bricks currently form part of the market area's drains. Last June, a new surface installed in Park Street in Walsall town centre as part of £40,000 improvements was ripped up weeks after it was laid after a water leak.

## Park hope on parking as funding announced

IMPROVED car parking is among the ideas on the cards for a Walsall park that has attracted £160,000 in funding.

The Friends of Reedswood Park are considering how best to spend the cash, which has come from developers that are building new homes in the area. Known as Section 106, the funds go towards the cost of leisure and environmental amenities.

The £160,000 has come from developer Taylor Wimpey, which is building properties on land formerly occupied by the Walsall Council depot, in Norfolk Place off Bloxwich Road.

Birchills-Leamore ward representative Chris Jones is also chairman of the park's Friends group. Councillor Jones said: "We are looking at a number of options for the park. There is the lodge that is currently vacant and in need of renovation, but it would need a project or enterprise moving in that is going to sustain itself long term."

"Another idea is the possibility of creating some car park spaces at the top end near the Reedswood Lane entrance. We had to stop the local football teams

by Deborah Hardiman

using the park some years ago because it created road safety issues on Bentley Lane, and complaints from residents because the parents left their cars on grass verges and were blocking people in."

"There has been some criticism in the community about this money coming to the park when the council is facing budget cuts. However, people need to be aware that this money is not allocated from the town hall's budget."

There is a well-used play area for young children and footpaths have been surfaced and new benches and litter bins fitted.

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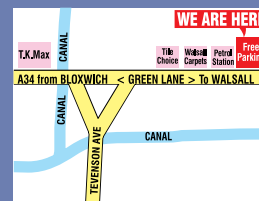
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Monday 7-9pm

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Thursday 7-9pm

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Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 2

Wednesday 7-9pm

#### ICT Qualifications

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Tuesday 10-12noon or

Wednesday 10-12noon

OCR ITQ Level 1 for those with some ICT knowledge

Tuesday 1-3pm or

Monday 1-3pm

ECDL Level 1 and 2

Thursday 7-9pm

#### Teaching qualifications

**Looking to teach take the first steps with our Level 3**

Level 3 Education and Training (PTLL)

Tuesday 6.30-9pm

Level 5 Education and Training (DTLL)

Starts April 2015 register your interest

#### Maths and English

**Brush up your skills with a functional skills qualification**

Maths

Thursday 1-3pm

Maths

Thursday 7-9pm

English

Wednesday 7-9pm

English

Tuesday 10-12noon

## Recreational courses – learn a new skill or improve your skills with our 10 week courses (unless otherwise stated)

#### Languages

Beginners French

Monday 6-7.30pm

Beginners Spanish

Wednesday 7-9pm

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Monday 7-9pm

#### Computer/Photography Courses

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Saturday 10-12noon

Wednesday 12.30-2.30pm

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Saturday 12.30-2.30pm

Saturday 10-12noon

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2pm-3pm

#### Body Blast

Intermediate Level fitness class to target all areas of the  
body including use of equipment and a variety of fitness  
techniques.

6.15pm-7pm

#### Zumba

Join in the fun!

7pm-8pm

#### Keep-Fit

Low impact exercise classes for all ages

(optional diet advice and weigh in included 7.15pm-8pm)

8pm-9pm

#### TUESDAY

##### Karate

Learn self defence, keep fit and gain confidence, suitable  
for ages 5-65.

7pm-8pm

##### Keep-Fit

Exercise class suitable for all ages.

9.45am-10.45am

Yoga 6pm-7pm

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Body Blast

Intermediate Level fitness class to target all areas of the  
body including use of equipment and a variety of fitness  
techniques.

7pm-7.45pm

#### THURSDAY

##### Keep-Fit

Low impact exercise class suitable for all abilities.

10am-11.30am

##### Happy Thursday Activity Club

Indoor Social Bowling

Beginners welcome.

10am-1pm

2pm-4.30pm

#### FRIDAY

##### Karate

Learn self defence, keep fit and gain confidence, ages  
5-65.

7pm-8pm

#### SATURDAY

##### Indoor Social Bowling

Beginners welcome.

11am-1pm

##### ISkate

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# Ebola fundraiser event

POETS and musicians will perform at a series of events to support fundraising for the victims of the ebola crisis.Singers Niven Smith, Peter Hackett and Martin Hubbard will join poets Angela Garratt, of West Bromwich, Ian Henery, of Aldridge, and Brendan Hawthorne, of Wednesbury, at an evening at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery on January 11. The event will start at 7pm and all are welcome to attend. Proceeds will be donated to the British Red Cross to assist victims in West Africa.More details are available via email on angelagarratt@hotmail.co.uk

# Couple in heroics to save house fire victims

NEIGHBOURS helped to rescue two elderly brothers from a fire which badly damaged their home in Bloxwich.

The couple managed to force their way into the house in Hawbush Road after a blaze was sparked in the ground floor lounge. Graham and Margaret Allen sprang into action after discovering the fire in the next door property at just before 7am on the Saturday after Christmas.

They helped to get Roy and Nigel Cattell from the heavily smoke-logged address as fire and ambulance crews were also called.

The occupants, who are believed to be in their early 80s and late 70s, were checked over for smoke inhalation ahead of being taken to alternative accommodation. Mrs Allen, a carer, first noticed black smoke coming from the Walsall Housing Group property when she prepared to go work on the morning.

## Shouting

She then called her husband Graham, aged 63, who managed to force the front door. One of the men was on the ground floor and he slumped onto Mrs Allen's shoulders. The 60-year-old helped to take him round to her house and away from the smoke as paramedics were on their way.

Mr Allen, a yard operative at a car auction site, managed to get upstairs through the thick black smoke using a torch. He was able to wake up the other occupant and help lead him to safety.

He said: "I couldn't see, all I had was a little torch. I had my hand over my mouth. I just kept shouting, and shouting and shouting



Margaret and Graham Allen

him to get out of bed. The fire brigade said if I hadn't gone in and got him up he would have been dead. You just go and do what you have got to do."

He added they felt sorry for the two brothers as a lot of belongings will have been destroyed. Great-grand-mother-of-nine Mrs Allen said: "I noticed smoke coming out of the window. It was a complete shock, I am just grateful they are alive. We are going to help them the best way we can."

The cause of the blaze is believed it could have been an electrical fault.

Workers from the housing association were later at the address securing the premises. Firefighters are also warning people not to leave naked flames unattended after a flat fire.

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**The Voice UK (BBC1, 7pm)**  
New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls backstage.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. **2.35** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The opening men's semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.10 BBC News**  
**6.30 Now You See It.** New series. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring incredible performances from across the globe as well as tricks going wrong. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.  
**7.00 The Voice UK.** New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls, who include a Scottish fireman, a soap star's daughter and one of the nation's best-loved children's characters.  
**8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.  
**9.20 Casualty.** Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.  
**10.10 BBC News: Weather.**  
**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge. National Lottery Update.  
**12.00** The Football League Show. **1.20** Film: Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) **2.35** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

**6.00 Film:** Apache Territory. (1958) **7.10 Film:** Private's Progress. (1956) **8.45 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **10.15** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **10.45** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **11.15** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **12.05** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.50** Michael Caine: Talking Pictures. **1.45** Film: The Ipcress File. (1965) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. **3.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The ladies' final.  
**6.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets.** The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms. (R)  
**6.30 Sacred Wonders of Britain.** Neil Oliver travels to Iona in the Inner Hebrides to learn about St. Columba's tough brand of monasticism, and finds out how the epic journey of St. Cuthbert led to the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the building of Durham Cathedral. At Canterbury Cathedral, Neil discovers how the gruesome murder of Thomas Becket spurred the building of its nave, and on Glastonbury Tor in Somerset, he investigates the story of the Holy Grail, the sacred cup of everlasting life. Last in the series. (R)  
**7.30 The Last Days of Anne Boleyn.** Hilary Mantel, Philippa Gregory and David Starkey sift through the evidence to try to determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536. (R)  
**8.30 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)  
**9.00 Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court.** Historians Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a re-creation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son Edward on October 15, 1537.  
**10.00 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl.** (2008) A bitter rivalry develops between two sisters as they compete for the affection of King Henry VIII. Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.  
**11.50 Darts: BDO World Championships.** **12.40** Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972)

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** Ejector Seat. (R) **12.25** Britain's Best Back Gardens. (R) **1.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **2.25** Tipping Point. (R) **3.25** Diversity Live. (R) **4.25** Regional Programme : Weather. **4.35** ITV News: Weather. **4.55** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep.  
**7.00 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes.** New series. The larger-than-life comic steps into the shoes of former hosts Leslie Crowther, Matthew Kelly and Cat Deley to front this latest reincarnation of the show in which five members of the public are transformed into their singing heroes to perform an iconic hit to an appreciative studio audience. The winner of each round goes forward to the final, with the chance to pick up the series' coveted award.  
**8.05 Take Me Out.** Chocolate factory worker Peter, city slicker Liam, oil rig engineer Colin and gymnast Chris vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date – but first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and also reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.  
**9.20 Film: Skyfall.** (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and also reviews the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.  
**11.05 ITV News: Weather.**  
**11.20 Film: Skyfall.** (2012) Concluded.  
**12.20** Off Their Rockers. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Cycling: Revolution Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Warwick and Kempton Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R)  
**6.00 The Simpsons.** In another trio of horror tales, Lisa discovers Bart's demented twin in the attic and creates an alternative world in a margarine tub – before becoming its god. (R)  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke meets Russell Edwards and Nadia Smith, who are trying to build a family home out of a derelict 18th-century farmhouse in the Shropshire countryside. (R)  
**8.00 Tsunami: 10 Years On.** Documentary studying the aftermath of the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a decade after it took place. Featuring archive footage and interviews with experts and eyewitnesses. First shown on More4.  
**9.00 Film: Bad Teacher.** (2011) Cynical, hard-drinking teacher Elizabeth Halsey hates her job and the kids in her class, and hopes to escape her daily grind by landing a rich husband. A wealthy substitute seems like a suitable candidate, but she has a rival for his attention in a squeaky-clean colleague. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Jason Segel and Lucy Punch.  
**10.50 Sarah Milligan: Chatterbox Live.** Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedienne shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone. (R)  
**11.50 Film: Cocktail.** (1988) An ambitious bartender with dreams of running his own establishment is torn between the waitress he loves and a wealthy older woman. Drama, starring Tom Cruise and Bryan Brown.  
**1.50** Queer as Pop: From the Gay Scene to the Mainstream. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. **10.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.20** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.20** Film: Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Little Richard. **3.15** Film: Columbo: Grand Deceptions. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.15** Deadliest Storms. (R)  
**6.10 Scariest Weather.** The most violent and dangerous weather ever caught on camera, including tornadoes and dust storms in America, wildfires in Russia and the tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011. Part of Storm Night.  
**7.00 Worst Weather Ever?** Documentary examining the current state of extreme weather, looking at the effect of the increase in the Earth's temperature and exploring what will happen if it continues to rise. Part of Storm Night. (R)  
**7.55 Secrets of the Egyptian Pyramids.** Dallas Campbell presents a programme in which a team of investigators attempt to unlock the secrets of some of the world's greatest engineering achievements. In the first episode, scientists and historians led by Steve Burrows, the engineer responsible for the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium in Beijing, travel to Egypt to use 3D laser scanners to digitally recreate virtual replicas of four different ancient pyramids. Through these, they tell the story of how builders 5,000 years ago refined the structure by learning from their mistakes and look at why the pyramids came to be buried in them. (R)  
**8.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the famous residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house.  
**10.00 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith.** (2005) Married assassins are hired to kill each other – a situation that restores some much-needed excitement to their relationship. Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.  
**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Avengers Assemble (2012) **11.15** Family Guy **1.30** Crims **2.00** People Just Do Nothing **4.00** Close  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia **11.50** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **1.55** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.25** Lost Land of the Volcano **3.25** Sounds of the Sixties **3.55** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.05** The Cube **1.10** Film: Richie Rich (1994) **3.05** You've Been Framed! **4.05** You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! **5.05** You've Been Framed! **5.35** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.20** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05** Blue Go Mad in Ibiza **11.05** Film: Ocean's Eleven (2001) **1.30** Mom **1.50** Fake Reaction **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.30** Lewis **1.35** Inspector Morse **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsommar **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.55** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **1.40** Jokaj **4.35** Storage Wars **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Buenos Aires ePrix. **8.30** Storage Wars **9.00** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20** Film: Troy (2004) **2.25** Highway Patrol **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.30** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **12.30** Rude (ish) Tube **1.30** Troy **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude (ish) Tube **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 100 **9.00** Film: Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** The Inbetweeners **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.25** Don't Trust the B\*\*\*\* in Apartment 23 **4.10** Charmed  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Cat Ballou (1965) **1.00** Taxi (2004) **2.55** Battle of the Sexes (1959) **4.40** Cleopatra (1959) **6.35** Beaches (1988) **9.00** Ghost (1990) **11.30** The Bay (2012) **1.15** Scanners (1981) **3.30** Close

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CHOICE



David Jason

**Still Open All Hours (BBC1, 7.30pm)**  
Although Arkwright may no longer be manning the unpredictable till, not much else has changed in his famous corner shop. So if some viewers are still claiming that in reality, it would have been taken over by a chain, turned into a tanning parlour or simply closed down all together, they'll be able to sympathise with the snobbish Mrs Dawlish, who this week struggles to believe that such a quaint little place still exists. Luckily, Granville thinks there may be a way to make money out of her incredulity. However, that doesn't mean he's afraid to move with the times – the shopkeeper also has ambitions to open a coffee shop, which is causing quite a stir in the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Eric, has been landed with a new job.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBR News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.35** Songs of Praise. **4.10** Film: Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **5.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.00** **Celebrity Mastermind.** Gemma Cairney, Anthony Ogogo, Tina Malone and Dominic Laurie answer questions on subjects including the Spice Girls, the London Underground and Barbra Streisand. **6.30** **Countryfile.** People and places hit by the 2014 floods in Somerset, meeting the farmer whose livelihood ended up underwater and finding out how it affected the local birdlife, including Weather for the Week Ahead. **7.30** **Still Open All Hours.** Granville's plans to open a coffee shop cause a stir in the neighbourhood, and snobbish local Mrs Dawlish pays a visit, surprised that such old-fashioned corner shops still exist. David Jason stars. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The team returns to Waltham Forest Town Hall in east London, where items include an Art Deco pendant with a hint of ancient Egypt and a purse that saved a German soldier's life. **9.00** **Last Tango in Halifax.** Celia tries to improve her relationship with Alan and accepts Gary into her life. Despite their tense relationship, she stands by Caroline when some devastating news is received. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, which were Arsenal v Stoke City at the Emirates Stadium and Manchester United v Southampton at Old Trafford. **11.35** **The Apprentice USA.** Surviving candidates Meat Loaf, Marlee Matlin, Dionne Warwick and others are tasked to create a children's book and perform its contents to a group of youngsters. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

**6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** **Countryfile.** (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Food & Drink. (R) **12.20** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.50** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Shaun Murphy. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Colin Murray presents coverage of the men's final, as the tournament concludes at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, and the successor to Stephen Bunting is crowned. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **8.00** **Kate Humble – Into the Volcano.** Part two of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on another research expedition in the southern Pacific as they head to the island of Ambrym in the Vanuatu archipelago. There she undertakes an arduous journey to the volcanic cone Marum – which contains one of only five lava lakes on the planet – abseiling right to its heart to discover if another major eruption may be imminent. Along the way she discovers how the volcano has shaped the customs and traditions of the islanders and discovers what it really means to live each day on its slopes. **9.00** **Racing Legends: John Surtees.** High-profile car enthusiasts pay tribute to British motorsport greats and re-enact one of their most iconic races. Last in the series. **10.00** **QI XL.** Extended edition. Question master Stephen Fry continues the comedy quiz's exploration of subjects beginning with the letter L as he asks a range of fiendish questions on the multisized worlds of the little and the large. Joining regular panellist Alan Davies are Pointless co-host Richard Osman and stand-ups Lucy Porter and Phill Jupitus, who are all hoping they don't fall into the QI elves' traps and set off the klaxon. **10.45** **Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island.** Documentary going behind the scenes at Richard Branson's Necker Island, one of the world's most exclusive holiday destinations where guests can pay more than £40,000 a night. (R) **11.45** **Snooker: The Masters.** Stuart Bingham v Marco Fu. **12.35** Snooker Extra.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Film: Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey. (1993) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.30** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.30** Catchphrase. (R) **2.15** Midsummer Murders. (R) **4.15** Film: Diamonds Are Forever. (1971) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery. **6.35** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News:** Weather. **7.00** **All Star Family Misfortunes.** Vernon Kay reviews clangers and bloopers from the long-running quiz show, together with some of the more silly answers proposed by its celebrity participants. **8.00** **Foyle's War.** The son of a high-profile Jewish businessman is attacked in the grounds of a university, leaving Foyle to consider the possibility that the attack was racially motivated. Meanwhile, in London, tensions mount as charismatic right-wing leader Guy Spencer is released from prison. But is he being set up to take the spotlight off a dangerous espionage operation involving MI6? Elsewhere, Sam becomes acutely aware of the impact of the war on Adam's constituents as she encounters a young boy suffering from whooping cough. Michael Kitchen stars in the 1940s-set crime drama, with Honeyusuckle Weeks and Daniel Weyman. **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.15** **The Kyle Files.** Jeremy Kyle tackles high-profile issues that affect people's lives across Britain. (R) **10.45** **The Undrivableables.** Some of Britain's worst learner drivers are paired with leading instructors in an attempt to finally pass their test. An Essex woman tackles London's hectic roads. (R) **11.15** **Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures. **12.10** The Store.

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** Film: Astro Boy. (2009) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **3.15** Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001) Family comedy, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Sara Damergi searches the Kissimmee area of Florida to find a holiday home suitable for mother-and-daughter duo Jane and Bethan Thomas, who wish to buy a place close by the sunshine state's theme parks that they adore so much. Within their £70,000 budget, the options include a two-bedroom apartment and a three-bedroom lakeside house that offers a promising rental return. **7.00** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** The property expert heads to Bath to assist Robert and Angela, who have had their home on the market for five years and Sam and Maria, who have been trying to sell for 10 months. **8.00** **The Hotel.** Mark makes plans to stage a Scottish-themed event so a coachload of guests will stay put at the Cavendish and not be tempted to take their money elsewhere. **9.00** **Walking the Nile.** Levison Wood meets members of the Mundari tribe, who have set up a cattle camp on an island in the middle of the River Nile and lead an isolated yet tranquil existence. **10.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the irreverent quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests from the worlds of comedy and entertainment. (R) **11.05** Film: **Machine Gun Preacher.** (2011) Premiere. A former gang member seeks to protect children who have been orphaned during a civil war in east Africa. Fact-based drama, starring Gerard Butler and Michelle Monaghan. **1.30** The Last Leg. (R) **2.25** Film: The History of Mr Polly. (1949) **4.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.00** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.05** SuperScrimpers. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino.

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.00** Film: Mrs Caldwell's Cabbage War. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **3.10** Film: The Pursuit of Happyness. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Will Smith. **5.30** Film: Aladdin. (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams. **7.10** **5 News Weekend.** **7.15** Film: **Jackie Chan's The Medallion.** (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy who has supernatural powers, but a team of international police officers is on his trail. One of the cops is killed saving the child, who resurrects him using a magical medallion. The revived detective now has superhuman abilities, which he uses to protect the youngster. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan, Lee Evans, Julian Sands, Claire Forlani and John Rhys-Davies. Edited for violence. **9.00** **Celebrity Big Brother.** A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room. **10.00** Film: **A Lonely Place to Die.** (2011) Premiere. Five mountaineers rescue a Serbian girl held captive in the Scottish Highlands, only to be attacked by her kidnappers. Thriller, starring Melissa George and Ed Speleers. **11.55** **Winter Road Rescue.** Documentary following the work of snowplough drivers, RAC patrols and heavy-recovery specialists toiling to ensure the UK's roads are kept clear. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.25** The Voice UK **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Crims **11.15** Family Guy **12.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.00** Sweat the Small Stuff

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Architects of the Divine: The First Gothic Age **8.00** Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled **9.00** Dan Cruickshank and the Family That Built Gothic Britain **10.00** The Sky at Night: The Billion Pixel Camera **10.30** Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words **11.30** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **12.30** Heavy Metal Britannia **2.00** Heavy Metal Britannia at the BBC

**ITV2**  
**11.35** Take Me Out **12.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.35** You've Been Framed! **2.05** Film: Valiant (2005) **3.35** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.30** Film: King Kong (2005) **9.00** Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004) **11.05** Film: Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **1.05** Mom **1.30** Fake Reaction **2.10** The Hot Desk: Neon Jungle **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**  
**11.40** Wycliffe **12.55** Rosemary & Thyme **1.55** Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **3.55** Inspector Morse **5.55** Lewis **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst **10.00** Northern Lights **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10** Film: Interview with the Vampire (1994)

**ITV4**  
**11.00** FIA Formula E Championship **12.00** Prawn Stars **2.15** Alias Smith and Jones **3.15** Film: Destry (1954) **5.20** Film: Red River (1948) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Apocalypse Now (1979) **12.05** Hell on Wheels **E4**  
**12.30** Revenge **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The 100 **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory **11.25** The Interveners **12.30** Rude Tube **1.35** Rules of Engagement **2.30** Charmed **3.10** The Cleveland Show **3.30** Hollyoaks

**Film4**  
**11.00** Against the Wind (1948) **1.00** Just Wright (2010) **3.05** Flash Gordon (1980) **5.20** Binoculars (1996) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** Wrong Turn at Tahoe (2009)

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18 FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Nora Roberts' High Noon, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
When a hostage negotiator is attacked in a police station, suspicion falls on an officer whose incompetence she had exposed. However, when the campaign of intimidation continues, she discovers she is being targeted by a deranged criminal who holds her responsible for a tragedy in his past. Crime thriller, with Emilie de Ravin and Patrick Sabongui. (2009)

**TUESDAY**  
**Primeval, BBC1, 12.05am**  
Two American reporters and a cameraman travel to Africa in search of a near-mythical giant crocodile that has savaged hundreds to death. However, they not only have a battle surviving encounters with the man-eating predator, but also end up in the throes of a long-standing civil war involving a local warlord who does not take kindly to intruders on his territory. Thriller, starring Dominic Purcell and Orlando Jones. (2007)



Couples Retreat, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Keeping Up with the Steins, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
The Fiedler and Stein families embark on a game of one-upmanship as they try to outdo each other in their lavish preparations for their 13-year-old sons' forthcoming bar mitzvah parties. Meanwhile, one of the boys uses the occasion to plan a surprise reunion between his dad and estranged grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Daryl Sabara. (2006)

**FRIDAY**  
**Couples Retreat, ITV, 10.40pm**  
A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the unconventional treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Jason Bateman. (2009)

**Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, Channel 4, 12.30am**  
A Kazakhstani journalist is sent to the United States to learn about the country and its customs. However, when the inquisitive reporter stumbles across an episode of Baywatch featuring Pamela Anderson, he becomes convinced she is his future bride and embarks on a reckless mission to steal her down. Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)



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If you have at least two hours per week to spare, your time and experience of parenting/ grand-parenting, would make a huge difference to a young family. A volunteer role with Home-Start would increase your knowledge and skills and enhance your CV if you are interested in further training or employment.

Our next courses begin on  
**Tuesday 20th January 2015 from 9.30am until 2.30pm**

Full training and travel expenses are provided. DBS checks and character references are required.  
**If you are interested, please call the office on 01922 647018 or email gemmanorman@homestartwalsall.org.uk**



PICK OF THE WEEK

Looking to make their dreams come true

George Clarke likes to keep himself busy – so much so that he's often juggling various TV projects as well as running his own architectural firm.

Last March, he told us he was "making series three of Amazing Spaces. I'm making series four of Amazing Spaces at the same time. I'm making series five of Restoration Man, alongside series six of Restoration Man."

Blimey!

Well, at least his fans know that if they miss one instalment, they won't have long to wait until the next.

Amazing Spaces ended its run just before Christmas, and now it's the turn of the aforementioned series five of Restoration Man to take centre stage. And, despite the nation's continuing economic issues, it seems that people are still more than willing to invest their hard-earned savings in bricks and mortar – even if sometimes there isn't much of either when they take on a building.

"I think they're amazing," says George of those who take part in the programme. "These are people who are generally jumping into the unknown, taking on grade one or grade two listed buildings, many that have been abandoned for years."

"They do use a phrase sometimes that does make me laugh but is true, and they say, 'If I wasn't so naive, I wouldn't have taken on the project in the first place.' But the upside is that they're not paying a king's ransom for these buildings."

He has a sound piece of advice for all involved, although some don't give it much heed: "Get the professionals around you that can really help you and advise you in the areas you're lacking. As you know from watching the programmes, people do make some really major mistakes where they think they can design it themselves, but they can't and they get it wrong."

"Get a project manager involved if you've never done it before. A project manager is somebody who's seen as an investment, not a cost. They will save you money over the course of the build."

The second episode of the current

run sees George travel to Great Braxted in Essex, where Jim and Bee Goody want to turn a derelict Victorian school into their dream home in the country.

Sadly, they haven't been able to sell their existing house to help them fund the project, so have taken on a bridging loan, but on the upside, George is thrilled to hear that some of the original features they initially felt would hamper their creation of the perfect abode have now become some of their favourite aspects.

"I'm passionate about architecture and all over the country there are beautiful buildings with real soul that need to be saved," explains George. "I'm not interested in creating living museums. The challenge is to give these historic buildings a modern twist and drag them into the 21st century."

"What I loved about this was that these people have such a passion for Britain's architectural history. They just wanted to save the buildings for future generations."

"I love that, I find it really quite humbling."



George Clarke (left) in The Restoration Man, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Broadcastchurch ITV, 9pm**  
In 2013, after the first airing of multi-award-winning drama Broadcastchurch, viewers cancelled all Monday evening plans for the foreseeable, after David Tennant and Olivia Colman and co gave out such sterling performances, we simply couldn't think of anything else. Conversations, whether around the water cooler at work, or down the pub of a weekend, started and ended with 'who do we think really killed Danny Latimer?' It's safe to say, we were a nation addicted – to a television programme! But such is the calibre of writer Chris Chibnell's work. However, as we'd have expected, the focus of this second series has been shrouded in secrecy, and Chibnell explained: 'I knew, from the start, that there was another story to tell in the world of Broadcastchurch; so much so that I'd pitched it to Peter Fincham, Director of Television at ITV, in our very first meeting when he greenlit the first series of the show.' Tonight, the drama continues, as DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller continue their investigative work, the previous case never far from their minds.

**TUESDAY**  
**Suspects Channel 5, 10pm**  
New series. The return of the crime drama following

the work of three detectives, in which the actors devise their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. DI Martha Bellamy welcomes back DS Jack Weston after a period of enforced leave following the paedophile investigation, warning him this is his final chance. Jack and DC Charlie Steele investigate when a popular art teacher is found with life-threatening head injuries at a sixth-form college, with suspicions falling on handyman Ben Peel and head Rory O'Hanlon.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Angry, White and Proud Channel 4, 10pm**  
There's some hard-hitting stuff in this documentary, which explores how far-right splinter groups are on the rise. It's an eye-opener for director Jamie Roberts, who in his first full-length documentary, gets to know members of the far right – those who call themselves 'patriots', but some of whom admit to being racist and hating Muslims. Jamie and his camera

follow all aspects of their lives, from violent street protests and police arrests, to the ups and downs of their domestic lives. Colin is a former nightclub DJ, but these days, puts all his efforts into his group The South London Infidels, and has such strong negative views on Islam that in the past, it's cost him his job. We also meet Paul, a former key figure in the English Defence League who now heads up the South East Alliance, and a man who joined the far-right cause following the tragic death of his son.

**THURSDAY**  
**Cyberbully Channel 4, 9pm**  
It's been claimed that 69 per cent of young people in the UK have experienced some form of cyber bullying. Some cynics, especially those who are old enough to remember a time before social

media, may think that the answer is to log off the internet, but as this one-off drama shows us, it's not always that easy. Cyberbully stars Game of Thrones actress Maisie Williams as Casey Jacobs, a teenage girl who like many others her age is in constant digital communication with her friends, whether it's by text, social media or video chats. However, she's about to be faced with the darker side of effectively living her life online when she's targeted by an anonymous hacker. Her ordeal plays out in real time, and while what happens may seem extreme, it's certainly not beyond the realms of possibility or moving into Black Mirror's 'what if?' territory – worryingly, the events depicted have been inspired by real-life cases.

**FRIDAY**  
**Race to the Pole Channel 5, 7pm**  
Richard Parks takes part in a gruelling, mega-distance running event called the Jungle Ultra. In intense heat over five days, he has to cover a total of 230km across the brutal and unforgiving terrain of the Peruvian Amazon, with the course taking him from the cooler cloud forest down into the Amazon basin and through the jungle itself in Manu National Park. In addition, Richard has to carry all his own provisions with him, including food and safety and camping gear.



Suspects, Tuesday, Channel 5, 10pm

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Thank you... Thank You... Thank You...

# CHARITY SALE

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**CEREBAL PALSY SOCIETY - £1400**  
**FREIDRICHS ATAXIA - £932**  
**CHILDREN IN NEED - £130**

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**Your caring generosity makes it all worthwhile.**

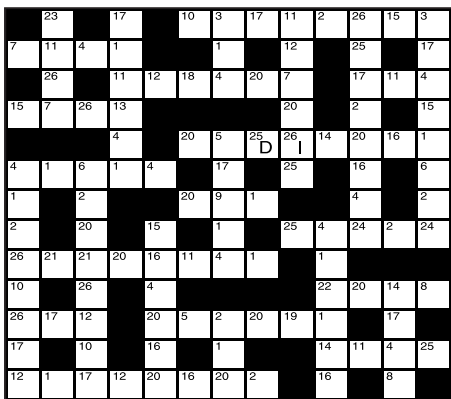
### EVERY LITTLE HELPS!!!!

Thank you... Thank You... Thank You...



## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

L	M	E	F	O	V	A	D	K	H	W	X	P
Y	B	C	T	S	Z	J	Q	R	U	N	G	I

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

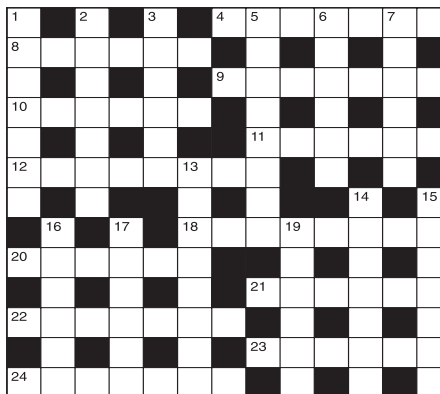
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

4. Believes the bank balances (7)
- 8 & 9Ac. The nervous exuberance of beastly apparitions! (6,7)
9. See 8 Across
10. They're taken by priest and private (6)
11. Did some pillaging - dismissed (6)
12. Photograph one quick on the draw (8)
18. Try out under-ground scientific equipment (4-4)
20. Selected group of pupils upsets the master (6)
21. Has wet dressing changed (6)
22. Tunic for a knight, we hear (7)
23. Ready to put in a word for the actor (6)
24. Provide new cover as compensation (7)

#### Down

1. Revel and merry-go-round almost finished (7)
2. A thousand ladies upset by faulty distribution (7)
3. The children and I in the farm buildings (6)
5. It becomes involved with posers and provides smart answers (8)
6. To do a job on the board is straightforward (6)
7. A torn piece of material for the lace-worker (6)
13. You'll find them also upset by cooked food (3,5)
14. Where one may declare routine practices (7)
15. Dislikes being told to go in the reserves (7)
16. Accurately use a pitch-fork! (6)
17. Sportsman who may well be foiled (6)
19. In the direction of information sign at the hospital? (6)



### Quick Clues:

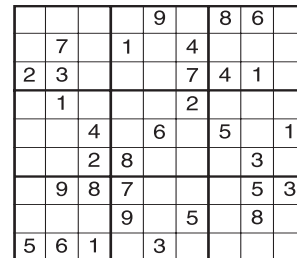
#### Across

4. Hamlet (7)
8. Cordial (6)
9. Odd (7)
10. Bad (6)
11. Wave (6)
12. Effort (8)
18. Disaster (8)
20. Diversion (6)
21. Jail (6)
22. Exhibit (7)
23. Self-possession (6)
24. Distended (7)

#### Down

1. Curtain (7)
2. Case of cutlery (7)
3. Road (6)
5. Inside (8)
6. Apt (6)
7. Silenced (6)
13. Grow (8)
14. Errand (7)
15. Before long (2,3,2)
16. Critique (6)
17. Force (6)
19. Sudden (6)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	6	9	3	5	8	4	7	2
3	2	8	9	7	4	1	6	5
7	4	5	6	2	1	9	8	3
8	7	3	4	1	2	6	5	9
2	9	6	7	3	5	8	4	1
4	5	1	8	6	9	2	3	7
9	3	4	1	8	7	5	2	6
5	8	7	2	9	6	3	1	4
6	1	2	5	4	3	7	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Countenances; 9 Ten; 10 Automatic; 11 Aides; 13 Trestle; 14 Gas-bag; 16 Assign; 18 Tripper; 19 Scene; 20 Absorbing; 21 Fit; 22 Clandestine. Down: 2 Own; 3 Nears; 4 Estate; 5 Aimless; 6 Cut it fine; 7 Straightway; 8 Screen tests; 12 Dismissal; 15 Aspirin; 17 Praise; 19 Sight; 21 Fan. QUICK - Across: 1 Injudicious; 9 Nip; 10 Fascinate; 11 Erect; 13 Diarist; 14 Tweeds; 16 Devout; 18 Liaison; 19 Onset; 20 Tailoring; 21 Too; 22 Influential. Down: 2 Nap; 3 Unfit; 4 Inside; 5 Imitate; 6 Unanimous; 7 Inferity; 8 Restitution; 12 Elevation; 15 Despol; 17 Entire; 19 Ought; 21 Tea.

## Quiz

1. Who presents TV's Question Time?
2. By what name is a kangaroo's young commonly known?
3. What is the largest city in Switzerland?
4. Who wrote the novel Cat's Cradle in 1963?
5. Which pop star married film director Guy Ritchie in 2000?
6. Which fish's young include alevis and smolts?
7. By which first name is former decathlete Francis Morgan Thompson better known?
8. Of which building does the White Tower of c.1079 form a part?
9. Whose first novel was A Parliamentary Affair?
10. Which record company was founded in Detroit by Berry Gordy Jnr?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Gerrymandering; 2 Bing Crosby; 3 India; 4 Beetle; 5 Margarine; 6 Pacific; 7 Arthur C. Clarke; 8 Nutmeg; 9 Fred Astaire; 10 Juggernaut.

### Niner: WORKMATES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

925 gives a female animal,  
1344 gives a male animal,  
157658 gives a rodent.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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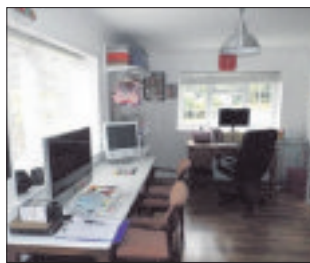




## Unique village property dates back to the 1700s

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Still retaining many period features, it has an entrance hall, lounge, a second lounge with an archway through to an inner lobby, kitchen with a breakfast bar, a utility room, rear lobby, WC, reception room three, master bedroom, a mezzanine storage level, an over stairs cupboard and ceiling beams, two further bedrooms, a bathroom and a rear garden with outside WC and shed. Contact Dixons on 01922 432011 or visit [www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk](http://www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk)



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- . Four Bedrooms
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- . Garage, Driveway

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**WHETSTONE LANE, ALDRIDGE**

- . Detached Bungalow
- . Two Bedrooms
- . Porch, Lounge
- . Kitchen, Bathroom
- . GCH, UPVC DG
- . Driveway, Garage

£695pcm - plus fees



**POUKHILL CLOSE, WALSALL**

- . Three Bed Extended Semi
- . Kitchen & Sitting Room
- . Bathroom & Wet Room
- . Lounge & Dining Room
- . Garage & Driveway
- . GCH & DG

£650pcm - plus fees



**PARK AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS**

- . Semi-Detached House
- . Three Bedrooms
- . Lounge, Bathroom
- . Breakfast Kitchen
- . GCH, UPVC DG
- . Driveway

£615pcm - plus fees



**DEEPMORE AVENUE, WALSALL**

- . Semi-Detached House
- . Three Bedrooms
- . Lounge, Kitchen
- . Rear Room, Bathroom
- . UPVC DG, GCH
- . Driveway, Rear Garden

£525pcm - plus fees



**TONG STREET, WALSALL**

- . Mid-Terraced House
- . Three Bedrooms
- . Two Reception Rooms
- . Newly Fitted Kitchen
- . Ground Floor Shower Room
- . GCH, UPVC DG

£495pcm - plus fees



**PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL**

- . Third Floor Flat
- . Two Bedrooms
- . Lounge & Kitchen
- . Bathroom
- . Heating & Double Glazing
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**WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, WALSALL**

- . Flat Above Shop
- . One Bedroom
- . Kitchen With Some Appliances
- . Lounge, Shower Room
- . Gas Central Heating
- . UPVC DG, GCH

£350pcm - plus fees



**BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL**

- . Split Level Flat
- . Lounge, Kitchen
- . Dining Room
- . Double Bedroom
- . Shower Room
- . Gas Central Heating

£325pcm - plus fees



**GOMERSTREET, WILLENHALL**

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- . One Bedroom
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- . Shower Room
- . Gas Central Heating

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### Ladbury Road Walsall



- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Shower Room
- Through Lounge & Dining Room
- Energy Rating Awaited
- Double Glazed As Stated

Viewing



- Gas Central Heating System
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Lawn & Paved Fore Garden, Modern Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£115,000**

### Bridge Street Walsall

REDUCED



- First Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Security Intercom System
- Double Glazed Sash Windows

OFFERS AROUND: **£56,950**

### Blakenall Lane Walsall



- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£64,950**

### Wareham Close Walsall



- Modern Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Energy Rating C, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£79,950**

### Broadstone Avenue Walsall



- Spacious Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Two Large Reception Rooms
- Good Access To Bloxwich & Walsall, Contemporary

OFFERS AROUND: **£144,950**

### Allens Lane Walsall



- Traditional Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms & Loft Room
- Through Reception Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£97,500**

### Drayton Street Walsall



- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating E, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£115,000**

### Blakenall Lane Walsall



- Semi Detached Property
- Off Street Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC Rating D, Upstairs Shower Room

OFFERS AROUND: **£79,950**

### Scholars Walk Walsall



- Modern Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating D, Family Bathroom & Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**

### Bridge Road Walsall



- Modern Style Upper Floor Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
- Energy Rating B
- Double Glazed As Stated

Viewing



- Gas Central Heating System
- Gated Parking
- Well Presented Throughout, Modern Bathroom & Good Size Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£92,500**

### Poplar Street Wolverhampton



- 3 Bedroom Mid terrace
- 2 Reception rooms
- Bathroom
- Double glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£65,000**

### Oak Road Willenhall



- 3 Bedroom semi detached
- 2 Reception rooms
- Kitchen
- EPC - E, Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£109,995**

### Shepwell Green Willenhall



- 2 Bedroom flat
- No upward chain
- Lounge
- Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£50,000**

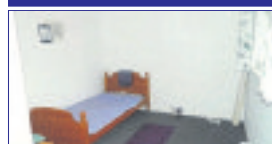
### East Park Way Wolverhampton



- 2 bedroom flat
- No upward chain
- Bathroom
- Kitchen/lounge

OFFERS AROUND: **£69,950**

### Attlee Road Walsall



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- No upward chain
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£115,000**

### Burford Close Willenhall



- 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- New Build
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£130,000**

### Maple Drive Walsall



- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Through Lounge & Conservatory
- Energy Rating E, Kitchen & Reception Hallway

OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**

### Kent Avenue Walsall



- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedroom & Family Bathroom
- Through Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
- Energy Rating C, Modern Extended Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**

### Alamein Road Willenhall



- 2 Bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Epc rating C, Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£100,000**

### Bentley Drive Walsall



- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Corner Position & No Chain
- First Floor Bathroom

Viewing

### Wood Common Grange Walsall



- Double Glazing As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System
- Off Road Parking & Garage, Kitchen & Utility Room

OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**



- Detached Family Residence
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite & Family Bathroom
- Energy Rating D, Large Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: **£225,000**

### Walhouse Road Walsall



- Imposing Three Bedroom Residence
- Immaculately Presented Throughout
- Lounge With Feature Fireplace
- Cellar, Sun Room & Utility Room, Spacious Accom-

OFFERS AROUND: **£210,000**

### Bunkers Hill Lane Bilston



- Three bedroom
- Two Reception rooms
- Downstairs Family Bathroom
- EPC - E, Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£125,000**

### Redwood Road Bilston



- Modern 3 bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- EPC - D, E, Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£137,500**

### Himley Close Bilston



- 4 Bedroom Detached Modern House
- Corner Plot and No Upward Chain
- Lounge
- EPC - B, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND: **£180,000**

### Mountford Lane Bilston



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- Entrance porch and hallway
- 2 Reception rooms
- EPC - D, No upward chain

OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**

### Bradleys Lane Coseley



- Imposing Detached Family Residence
- A Wealth Of Charm & Character
- Three Double Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Energy Rating - E, Two Reception Rooms & Spa

OFFERS AROUND: **£190,000**

### Lowbridge Walk Bilston



- 1 Bedroom period apartment
- Gated security entrance
- Modern kitchen open plan to lounge
- Feature sash windows

Viewing



- Central heating
- Allocated parking
- Communal grounds, Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£82,500**

### Birch Lane Walsall



- Spacious Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- En-suite & Guest WC
- Energy Rating Awaited, Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: **£225,000**

### Walstead Road Walsall



- Extended Four Bedroom Semi Detached Property
- L-Shaped Lounge & Dining Area
- Sitting Room & Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating D, Utility Room & Guest WC

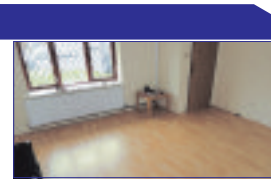
OFFERS AROUND: **£230,000**

### Pennyroyal Close Walsall



- Modern Style Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Lounge & Breakfast Kitchen
- EPC - D, No upward chain

Viewing



- Off Road Parking
- Fore & Rear Garden
- No Chain - Viewing Advised, Double Glazed As Stated

OFFERS AROUND: **£130,000**

Walsall  
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lettings@skitts.net	0121 520 2255
surveyors@skitts.net	0121 520 2255



### PELSALL OLD TOWN LANE

- Charming character Victorian style end terraced property conveniently situated near to Pelsall Village centre
- Ideal first time purchase
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob



**OFFERS OVER £125,000**



### BLOXWICH LICHFIELD ROAD

- Semi detached property situated behind generous frontage
- Three bedrooms
- Part double glazing & gas central heating system
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and utility room
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Garage and parking to the rear



**£125,000 OFFERS**



### BEECHDALE, WALSALL HADLEY WAY

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property thought ideal for first time purchasers or a young family
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Extended fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower



**OFFERS OVER £90,000**



### DUDLEY FIELDS, BLOXWICH CENTRAL DRIVE

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Gas central heating
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms



- Upvc double glazed windows
- Generous rear garden
- Off road parking
- No upward chain!

**OFFERS OVER £100,000**



### LEAMORE, WALSALL BEATRICE STREET

- Town house style property conveniently located near to green lane, walsall
- Three bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower



- Front and rear gardens
- Gas central heating and upvc double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

**£79,995 OFFERS**



### BLAKENHALL HEATH, WALSALL BELL TOWER CLOSE

- Pleasant modern style end town house conveniently located near to local amenities
- Three bedrooms



- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- 15ft rear lounge with French doors

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £130,000**



### WALSALL ELM ROAD

- Ideal first time purchase
- Pleasant two bedroom semi with off road parking to the front
- Lounge and fitted kitchen



- Upstairs fitted bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating & upvc double glazed windows
- Garden at rear
- Internal viewing recommended!!!

**£87,500 OFFERS**



### BLOXWICH HARRISON STREET

- Pleasant Victorian style terrace
- Two bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Spacious 20ft through lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Garden to the rear
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Internal viewing recommended
- No upward chain



**£75,000 OFFERS**



### ESSINGTON HIGH HILL

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached property situated in popular Essington village location
- Well maintained accommodation



- Three bedrooms
- 21ft through lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- First floor bathroom with shower

**£212,500 OFFERS**



### WALSALL GUILD AVENUE

- Corner plot re-fitted semi detached property thought ideal for first time purchasers
- Two bedrooms
- Excellent re fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob



- Re fitted bathroom with shower
- New fitted carpets throughout
- Gas central heating and upvc double glazed windows

**£95,000 OFFERS**



### WALSALL BELL TOWER CLOSE

- Pleasant modern style town house
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Spacious rear lounge



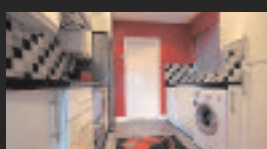
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed
- Garage & Off road parking
- Cul-de-sac location

**£149,500 OFFERS**



### ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Extended traditional style semi
- Gas central heating, upvc double glazing
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms



- Bathroom and shower room
- No chain

**OFFERS OVER £179,950**



### LEAMORE, WALSALL EAGLEWORKS DRIVE

- Well presented modern style ground floor apartment with private entrance
- Two bedrooms
- Open plan living space & kitchen



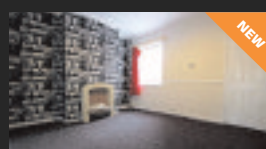
- Gated allocated parking
- Ideal first time purchase!

**£49,950 50% SHARED**



### WALSALL WELL LANE

- Pleasant terraced style property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating & Upvc double glazed windows



- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower fitment
- Garden and garage space at rear
- No upward chain

**£84,950 OFFERS**



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## BLOXWICH WETHERBY ROAD

- Semi detached residence situated in popular Turnberry Road development
- Three bedrooms
- Central heating & Upvc D/glazed windows
- Full width rear lounge/dining room
- Garage currently used as study/utility room and w.c
- Enclosed rear garden with timber decked patio
- Off road parking to the fore



£159,950 OFFERS



## BLOXWICH BROAD LANE

- Much improved semi detached property
- Extended to the rear and side elevations
- Popular Broad Lane location
- Four bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Bathroom and shower room
- Detached garage
- Block paved driveway



£174,950 OFFERS

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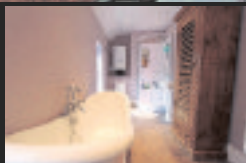
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## WALSALL WEST BROMWICH ROAD

- Considerably improved Victorian style end terraced
- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Superb fitted bathroom with roll top bath and separate shower cubicle
- Central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Re-fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- Garden to the rear



£99,950 OFFERS



## BLOXWICH ODELL ROAD

- Town house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating & upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

£99,950 OFFERS



## LOWER FARM MATLOCK CLOSE

- Well presented and well maintained family home
- Close to local amenities
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms

£129,995



## BLOXWICH BOOTH STREET

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Upstairs bathroom

OFFERS OVER £89,995



## BLOXWICH HARRISON STREET

- Superbly appointed and terraced family home
- Situated close to bloxwich high street
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms

OFFERS OVER £125,000



## BLOXWICH GLASTONBURY CRESCENT

- Pleasant town house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Spacious full width fitted dining kitchen

£97,500 OFFERS



## WALSALL HARDEN CLOSE

- First floor maisonette
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating & Upvc double glazed windows
- Lounge, kitchen and bathroom

£44,950 CASH OFFERS ONLY

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### ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Superb Detached Residence
- Open plan lounge, dining room
- Refitted breakfast kitchen
- Four bedrooms
- Family room • Bathroom
- En-suite shower room
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating, driveway
- Garage, gardens



**£365,000**



### ESSINGTON LARCHMERE DRIVE

- Exceptional detached family residence
- Lounge, Dining room, Conservatory
- Five bedrooms
- Double glazing, gas central heating



- Spacious breakfast kitchen & utility
- Bathroom, En-suite shower room
- Beautiful landscaped corner plot gardens
- Garage and driveway

**£325,000**



### ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Attractive Extended Semi Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Extended Lounge, Conservatory
- Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen



- Utility & WC
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Large Block Paved Driveway
- Delightful Rear Gardens

**£239,950**



### COPPICE FARM ULLSWATER ROAD

- Exceptional Detached Residence, No Chain
- Impressive Secluded Position
- Four Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory



- Excellent Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility / WC, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Garage & Block Paved Driveway
- Pleasant Front, Rear Gardens

**£240,000**



### BENTLEY CHURCHILL ROAD

- Exceptional modern style detached property
- Four good size bedrooms
- 24ft through lounge/dining room
- Newly fitted kitchen, Utility/wc



- Excellent Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility / WC, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Garage & Block Paved Driveway
- Pleasant Front, Rear Gardens

**£215,000**



### KINGFISHER ESTATE HONEYBOURNE WAY

- Modern style semi detached property, Lounge
- Sitting room
- Refitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms



- Shower room, Double glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Block paved driveway
- Rear garden

**OFFERS OVER £150,000**



### WILLENHALL STROUD AVENUE

- Modern style semi detached property, Lounge
- Impressive refitted dining kitchen, Bathroom
- Three bedrooms, Double glazing, Gas CH
- Garage, Block paved driveway, Gardens

**£150,000**



### WILLENHALL YALE ROAD

- Impressive 3 Bedroom Mid town house
- Spacious lounge, Conservatory, Dining kitchen
- Bathroom, En-suite, Double Glazing, Gas CH
- Garage, Driveway, Gardens, No chain

**£140,000**



### COPPICE FARM BEMBRIDGE CLOSE

- Impressive extended Two Bedroom Semi detached
- Spacious lounge with dining area
- Superb kitchen • Conservatory • Shower room
- Double glazing • Gas CH • Garage • Rear garden

**£140,000**



### KINGFISHER ESTATE WELAND GROVE

- Modern Style Semi Detached on Corner Plot
- Lounge • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Garage
- Driveway • Gardens • No Chain

**£135,000**



### WILLENHALL DILLOWAYS LANE

- Extended traditional semi detached property
- Through lounge • Superb family/dining room
- Fitted kitchen • 3 bedrooms • Refitted bathroom
- Double glazing • Gas CH • Driveway • Gardens

**£135,000**



### WILLENHALL CADNAM CLOSE

- Modern Detached Property • Rear Gardens
- Lounge • Dining Room • Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas CH • Garage • Driveway

**£134,950**



### COUNTY BRIDGE WORCESTER ROAD

- Much Improved Semi Detached • Fitted Kitchen
- Through Lounge / Dining Room • Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Bathroom • Double Glaz
- Gas CH • Driveway • Superb Large Rear Gardens

**£130,000**



### WILLENHALL DARVEL ROAD

- Much improved 3 bedroom modern semi detached
- Lounge with dining area • Refitted kitchen
- Bathroom • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Garage • Driveway • Front and rear gardens

**£130,000**



### WILLENHALL WOLVERHAMPTON RD WEST

- Superb 3 Bedroom Modern Style Semi Detached
- Hall • Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Bathroom • Double Glazing
- Gas CH • Two Allocated Parking Spaces • Gardens

**£125,000**



### COPPICE FARM GOREY CLOSE

- Extended two bedroom modern semi detached
- Lounge • Kitchen • Utility
- Bathroom • Double glazing • Gas CH
- Rear gardens • Driveway

**£122,500**



### SHORT HEATH TENNYSON ROAD

- End Terrace Property • Hall • Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen • Utility • 3 Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room • Double Glazing
- Gas CH • Delightful Rear Gardens • Driveway

**£115,000**



### NEW INVENTION RUGELEY AVENUE

- End Terrace Property with No chain
- Large Lounge, Kitchen, Sitting/ Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas CH • Gardens

**£109,950**

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### ESSINGTON WALDALE CLOSE

- Exceptional Extended Link Detached
- Popular Cul-de-sac Location
- Lounge ● Dining room
- Superb refitted kitchen
- Utility and wc ● Study
- 3 bedrooms ● Refitted bathroom
- Gas central heating ● Double glazing
- Block paved driveway ● Garage
- Delightful front and rear gardens



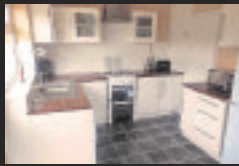
£199,500

EPC TBC



### WOODLANDS LOMBARDY GARDENS

- Much Improved Semi Detached
- Hall
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Gardens



£130,000

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EPC TBC



### WILLENHALL HIGHGROVE CLOSE

- Impressive Detached Property in Premier Location
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Large Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen ● Utility
- Gas CH ● Double Glazing ● Garage ● Gardens

£175,000

EPC D



### SNEYD PARK CEDAR PARK ROAD

- Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain
- Hall, Spacious Lounge ● Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Garage ● Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £100,000

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EPC C



### BENTLEY DYSON CLOSE

- Spacious 2 Bedroom mid terraced property
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Rear gardens ● Communal parking

£89,950

EPC C



### SHORT HEATH SOUTHEY CLOSE

- Much Improved Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
- No Chain ● Hall ● Through Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Front & Rear Gardens

£89,950

EPC E



### SHORT HEATH COLTHAM ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached with No Chain
- Hall ● Lounge ● Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Part Gas CH ● Long Rear Gardens

STARTING BID £80,000

EPC C



### NEW INVENTION CANNOCK ROAD

- Much Improved Modern Style Mid Town House
- Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Double Bedroom
- Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Garage ● Gardens ● No Upward Chain

£80,000

EPC C



### NEW INVENTION HILTON ROAD

- Well 3 Bedroom mid terrace ● No chain
- Hall with wc ● Superb refitted dining kitchen
- Lounge ● Refitted shower room
- Double glazing ● Gas CH ● Rear garden

£97,000

EPC D



### BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Two Bedroom Semi detached with No chain
- Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Garage to the rear ● Front and rear gardens

£94,950

EPC E



### WILLENHALL ST ANNE'S ROAD

- Period Three Bedroom Mid Terrace with No Chain
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Garage ● Rear Gardens

£85,000

EPC E



### WILLENHALL ROSEHILL

- Improved mid terraced property with No chain
- Three bedrooms ● Lounge ● Dining room
- Refitted kitchen ● Bathroom
- Double glazing ● Pleasant rear garden

OFFERS OVER £85,000

EPC TBC



### WILLENHALL REGENT STREET

- Period 2/3 Bedrooms Mid Terrace ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating

£75,000

EPC E



### WILLENHALL GIPSY LANE

- Traditional 2 Bedroom mid terraced with No chain
- Lounge and dining room ● Kitchen
- Refitted kitchen ● Bathroom
- Ground floor bathroom ● First floor shower room
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating

£74,950

EPC B



### ESSINGTON HOUGH WAY

- Superb First Floor Apartment
- Premier Location
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space



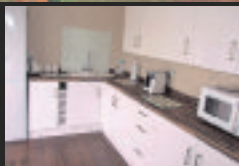
OFFERS OVER £110,000

EPC TBC



### BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Impeccably Presented Semi Detached
- Hall
- Lounge
- Superb Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Gas CH
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens



£110,000

EPC TBC



### WILLENHALL SQUIRES GATE ROAD

- Modern end terraced with No Chain
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Hall with guest wc
- Bathroom
- Double glazing ● Gas CH
- Two allocated parking spaces
- Rear gardens



£97,000



# L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

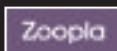
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<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL</b> Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden &amp; Driveway.</p> <p>£180,000</p>	<p><b>CHARACTER PROPERTY</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>BUSH STREET, DARLASTON</b> Three Bed Cottage Style Detached Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms &amp; En-Suite W.C To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated Parking, Double Garage With Office &amp; Garden.</p> <p>£195,000</p>	<p><b>VIEWING ADVISED</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>RIVERBANK RD, WILLENHALL</b> Immaculate Four Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch &amp; Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, En-Suite Shower To Master &amp; Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Garage, Gardens To Front</p> <p>£195,000</p>	<p><b>ANNEXE</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>MILL LANE, WILLENHALL</b> Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner &amp; Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.</p> <p>£280,000</p>		

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5-1 CGI shows a typical property at the development. \*Terms and conditions apply, available on request.







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# All-new i40 for Europe revealed by Hyundai

By Matt Joy

Hyundai Motor has introduced its new i40 Tourer and Saloon, enhancing the brand's product line-up in Europe's competitive D-segment.

A flagship car for Hyundai Motor in Europe at its launch, the original i40 has achieved sales of 100,000 units and played an important role in changing customers' perceptions of the Hyundai brand.

The new i40 now features refined exterior styling, an up-graded range of responsive, efficient diesel engines, the addition of a new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, improvements in ride and handling and several 'first-for-Hyundai' active safety and convenience features. Many of the new technologies were first seen on the new Hyundai Genesis.

Designed and engineered at the company's European R&D headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany, the refreshed design for New i40 retains the distinctive visual appeal and practicality of the original model, combining practicality with engaging design.

Exterior enhancements include an updated design for front and rear lamps, a more sophisticated hexagonal grille, a new front bumper, and new integrated LED fog lamps as introduced in Genesis. The profile is refreshed by newly-designed 16- and 18-inch alloy wheels.

New i40 is available with an enhanced engine line-up of two Euro6-compliant diesel power units from 115 PS up to 141 PS. These have been re-engineered to deliver increased responsiveness and efficiency.

## Upgraded

A new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission is available for the upgraded 1.7-litre diesel engine with 141 PS. It provides improved fuel efficiency, and offers drivers fully automatic operation or manual gear changes through paddles on the steering wheel for greater driver involvement.

Technologies included: Integrated Stop & Go (ISG), alternator management system, and active front flaps help to further reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

For better cornering and to improve the overall agility, the New i40 now offers Advanced Traction Cornering Control (ATCC) (subject to market specification). The system uses electronic sensors to emulate the behaviour of a limited-slip differential during cornering, providing additional traction, better grip and improved handling.

New i40's Drive Mode settings are enhanced by the new Rear Electronic Damping Control System (ECS) (subject to market specification), which will be equipped on the rear axle of the most popular New i40 body type – the Tourer. The driver will also be able to adapt the suspension settings through the drive modes to suit his driving style. In addition to the rear suspension, the steering, the transmission logic\* and throttle response\* are all influenced by the selection. This technology follows the electronic damping control introduced on the Genesis.

Hyundai has expanded the comprehensive list of available active and passive safety technologies for the New i40 even further.

As well as the existing Lane Keep Assist System, additional functions include the new Smart High Beam (SHB) system (available subject to market specification), which monitors approaching traffic and automatically turns off the high beam to avoid dazzling other drivers. This system was first seen on the premium Genesis model.

The new Speed Limit Identification Function system checks roadside signs and displays a current speed limit alert to the driver via the new TFT display on the instrument panel. It is the first time Hyundai is bringing this technology to its line-up. (available subject to market specification)

Also introduced in the New i40 is the company's latest navigation technology with enhanced touchscreen functionality and new visualisation for better usability. The two new audio systems are available with several new features including DAB technology for the top version.

Like all new Hyundai models, the new i40 is backed up by Hyundai's unique, Europe-only, Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package.



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**6 Property**

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8  
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**NISSAN MICRA**, 7 months MoT,  
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9  
Local  
Information

public & legal  
notices

**Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online [www.walsall.gov.uk/planning](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/planning). Representations can be made online, email: [planningServices@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:planningServices@walsall.gov.uk) or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darvall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

**Please note:** Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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## Keeper backing Banks's boxing

WALSALL goalkeeper Richard O'Donnell has given the thumbs up to the club's championship boxing bill at the Banks's Stadium in February, writes Craig Birch.

The Saddlers shot-stopper is from Sheffield, the same city which boasts reigning IBF world welterweight champion Kell Brook.

Wolverhampton's Des Bowater and Tipton's Lennox Clarke take their first steps towards titles in the Stadium Suite on Saturday February 21, on a bill that also features Stoke's Kieron McLaren. O'Donnell welcomed the trio to the ground.

He said: "There a few good fighters from down my end in Sheffield, it's very much a boxing city, and it's great we have got this show here.

"Walsall are a family club, they do a lot commercially and in the community and that's their lifeblood for the future.

"We, as players, can tell how hard the staff are working behind-the-scenes to boost the club's revenue and use all of the resources that they have."

Tickets range from £30, £40 ringside or £50 VIP with a meal included. For more information, call the Walsall FC ticket office on 01922 651 414-416 or 07557 395 138.

## Berahino's show for new boss

### Albion 7 Gateshead 0

THERE was much to report from new Albion boss Tony Pulis' first official day in charge, from the rousing reception he was afforded to his 15th-minute appearance on the touchline, to the dramatic change in fortunes for his side to their dominant second-half display.

But as so often since he burst onto the first-team scene 18 months ago, it was Saido Berahino who took the bulk of the attention.

Pulis' footballing mantra is all about the team, so Berahino's stony-faced, 'look at me' refusal to celebrate any of his four excellent goals against the Conference minnows is unlikely to have gone down well with his new gaffer.

But for the best part of 45 minutes, it was the sorry sight of 'old Albion'.

Two goals came against the run of play just before the interval. The first from Berahino and the next arrived from Victor Anichebe.

## Course on being a ref

A STAFFORDSHIRE college will host a course starting next week for anyone thinking of becoming a football referee.

The Staffordshire FA will run the course, starting January 12 at Erasmus Darwin College in Chasetown.

The course, which costs £110 per person, consists of five modules covering the 17 laws of the game, the art of positioning and movement, management strategies and ideas on decision-making and effective reporting of misconduct.

The course is open to anyone aged 16 and above, contact Gemma Turner on 01785 279828.

# Bradshaw brings down the Dons

### MK Dons 0 Walsall 3

THE statistic will not have made very encouraging reading for Dean Smith's men as they braced themselves for both the cold weather and a potential onslaught from the league's most prolific scorers.

Dons boss Karl Robinson was having his 250th game in charge at the club amid great expectation from the home support.

The Dons, fresh from recording their highest ever home league win in a 7-0 drubbing of Oldham Athletic last time out, have found the net no fewer than 33 times at home in the league this season.

In comparison, Smith's side have had a disappointing campaign away from the Banks's Stadium.

But while they may not usually bag goals by the hatful, the Saddlers don't concede that many either. And they have shown

### Football

with a brace of victories, four draws and four clean sheets that they can hold their own on the road.

Lingering memories of the 4-1 Boxing Day home defeat against high-flying Swindon Town were banished in little more than 60 seconds.

The visitors could not have wished for a better start when Darren Potter bundled the ball past his own keeper after Walsall left-back Andy Taylor sent in an inviting free-kick with just over a minute on the clock.

Shocked by the setback, the hosts looked to bounce back immediately five minutes later when Dele Alli laid the ball back to Samir Carruthers, but he fired wide from

the edge of the box. Former Walsall striker Will Grigg looked certain to level proceedings as the Dons built up the pressure, but was thwarted by a superb last-ditch clearance by Walsall centre-half Paul Downing.

But the Saddlers could have put the game beyond their hosts before half-time after a series of defensive lapses and some intricate link-up play between Romaine Sawyers and Tom Bradshaw. Clever skill from Sawyers seven minutes before the break created a two on one situation and he played in Bradshaw only for the striker's tame effort to go straight at keeper David Martin.

Both sides began brightly after the break with both Bradshaw and Grigg nearly getting on the end of crosses as the action became end-to-end.

Then one time Sunderland man Jordan Cook almost found the top corner but his

curling effort flew just wide of the goalkeeper's left-hand post.

The Dons nearly equalised 10 minutes into the second half but had a strike ruled offside before the visitors eventually made the hosts pay for their lacklustre defending.

Bradshaw may not have made the best of his earlier opportunities, but the striker has a keen eye for goal and eventually settled the outcome of this game.

Just after the hour mark he reacted quickest to a poor cushioned header back to his goalkeeper by Potter, before rounding Martin and slotting the ball into the empty net to the joy of the visiting supporters.

The Walsall striker then bagged his second goal of the afternoon with a tap-in after Martin saved substitute Mal Benning's initial effort to cap an excellent passage of intricate football by the visitors.

# Taylor brace takes the points for Wood

### Walsall Wood 2 Stourport Swifts 0

**A WIN for the visitors would have taken them up to fourth place, but it was Wood who claimed the points courtesy of a brace by Leon Taylor.**

On a heavy pitch, Wood almost went ahead after just a minute, Leon Taylor took the ball round keeper Brendan Bunn but Kevin Spencer poked the ball behind for a left wing corner that was easily cleared.

The ball was quickly played to the other end for Luke Corbett to hit a low drive from 30 yards that was pushed round the right hand post by a diving Dale Faultless at full stretch.

On 10 minutes a forceful run wide right by Paul Hurrell saw him hit a cross to the far post that just eluded Lewis Pountney.

On 14 minutes Andre Gonzales powered down the Wood left before releasing Corey Curriethers into the left of the box, his low ball inside was fractionally behind Taylor who could only shoot straight at the keeper.

Three minutes later Pountney won a right wing corner, the ball half cleared to Michael Briscoe whose first time effort cleared the back fence.

The game developed into a midfield stalemate because the sides had the two meanest defences in the league until on 28 minutes an unseemly off the ball incident saw Black for Wood and Carl Fellows for Swifts take an early bath.

After a lengthy delay the game continued and two minutes into injury time Curriethers picked the ball up on halfway and raced for goal, he scythed through three tackles before being half stopped just inside the box, Taylor first to the loose

### Football

ball to push it wide of Bunn and the post.

A minute later Corbett raced onto a through-ball left of centre to fire hopelessly wide.

The first goalmouth action of the second half came on 53 minutes, an intricate piece of interplay by Curriethers and Ben Evans won a corner that was easily cleared.

They combined two minutes later, Curriethers cut in from wide left and set up Evans whose first-time drive brought a full-length save from Bunn.

Wood broke the deadlock a minute later, Gonzales broke up an attack and raced 50 yards wide left, played a clever 1-2 with Curriethers before crossing low into the centre, Taylor timing his run to perfection hammered the ball home.

On 68 minutes it was Curriethers, the left wing marauder, making the left of the box, pulling the ball back to find Taylor who made no mistake to bury the ball in the back of the net.

On 80 minutes from a right wing throw Evans cut inside, he then laid the ball back to Charlton Davies whose 25-yard low drive was deflected inches wide, to deny him his first Wood goal.

## Battling display is not enough for victory



**Walsall's No.8 Rod Dickson evades a tackle from a Hereford player during the match which the visitors lost**

### Hereford 25 Walsall 6

WALSALL produced a battling display against promotion chasing Hereford at the Wayside.

The hosts established a 13-6 half time lead thanks to a Perry Rudge try which was converted by Matthew Goodall who also kicked two penalties. Walsall kept in touch with Roger Weston kicking two penalties.

At one stage Walsall were reduced to 13 players as flanker Hickman and lock forward Benson were forced to watch from the side lines.

During this period, early in the second half, the hosts extended their lead when Rudge got his second try which Goodall converted.

Later in the half No.8 Dickson found himself in trouble.

This proved to be more serious because with 20 minutes left he was penalised for retaliation and shown a red card.

The Hereford back division proved to be a constant threat throughout the afternoon and it was centre Rudge who broke through to score

his third try just before the final whistle.

This Saturday Kenilworth will be the visitors to Delves Road.

Walsall 3rds had a good win over Tamworth 2nds.

It became a tense affair but the Walsall team held on to their 22-19 advantage. Tries scored by Martin Franklin, Ben Millington, Richard Weaver and Andy Richardson and one conversion by Liam Small. The match was overshadowed however, by a bad knee injury to Gareth Scaife.

## Khalsa rack up 11 wins with rout

### Sporting Khalsa 6 Bewdley Town 0

SPORTING Khalsa made it 11 wins on the bounce and notched up their fifth successive clean sheet with a systematic demolition of Bewdley Town.

Having seen off Bewdley's Worcestershire neighbours Malvern by the same scoreline in their last game of 2014, Khalsa started the new year in style.

Mensah Kinch began the rout within two minutes of kick off.

Jamie Oliver doubled the lead for Ian Rowe's men, heading past Rob Dalloway from a Tim Jackson corner.

Nicky Campbell got off the mark, nodding home a looping cross from Marvin Nisbett from close range.

Substitute Craig Bannister grabbed the fourth on 74 minutes, collecting a deflected Brad Lawley shot, surging into the box, rounding the keeper and slotting home.

On 84 minutes Lawley got in on the act, latching on to a Townsend cutback to rocket the ball home.

With four minutes to go, Joe Rogers collected his first goal of the season, smashing a free kick into the roof of the net.

And in the final seconds Nisbett almost grabbed the goal his workrate and performance deserved.

## New Inns win over Swinfen

### Lichfield & Walsall District Football League Premier

SWINFEN Hall 1 New Inns FC 2

#### League Two

Oak Park Rangers 1

Trent Valley Rovers 0

#### League Three

Cellar Door 12 Ros Park 2

#### DFL Trophy Group A

AFC Collingwood 2 Walsall Phoenix 3

#### DFL Trophy Group D

Saddlers Arms 2 Dr. Johnson 6

#### Jack Donnelly Cup Round Two

Wych Elm 4 Longhorn FC 3 aet

#### Lichfield Challenge Cup Round Two

AFC Bush 1 Erdington Star 0

#### Cannock Wood 0 Anchor FC 3

Prince of Wales 7 Green Rock Tav. 3

## Sako couldn't leave on high

### Fulham 0 Wolves 0

HARD as he tried, Bakary Sako couldn't quite give Wolves something to remember him by.

At times in this game the Mali winger seemed to be on a one-man mission to find the moment which would have sent him to the African Cup of Nations with the plaudits ringing in his ears.

He came close when home keeper Marcus Bettinelli diverted his first-half drive onto the post thanks to the slightest of touches. A second-half snapshot also fizzed past the post while numerous crosses came close.

But the moment never came and Wolves now face an extra game again at Molineux.

# Level game is abandoned through snow

### Walsall Wood 2 Boldmere St Michaels 2 (Abandoned)

WOOD twice came from behind, the second time on 58 minutes in a blizzard and looked to be on the way to a hard-earned victory, but with the ball starting to hold up on an already sodden surface and the lines quickly disappearing, referee Paul Wainman had no choice than call a halt to proceedings.

The game started in torrential rain but both teams adapted quickly with Wood first to threaten on five minutes, a neat right wing move ending with Craig Deakin playing a low cross into the feet of Leon Taylor, he found Ben Evans whose first time low drive brought a full-length save from keeper Sean Butler.

Within a minute the Mikes went ahead, a long ball wide left was collected by Kieran

Clarke, he raced across the face of the box and fired in a rising drive that hit Shawn Boothe on the arm, he was unlucky penalised and Clarke stepped up to take the spot kick, keeper Dale Faultless saving full length diving to his right. From the resulting left wing corner Roland Agbor powered a header home. Four minutes later Agbor won the ball on halfway, he went through three challenges as he raced into the right of the box, Faultless making a superb save from his low drive.

On 18 minutes it was Agbor on the end of a central free kick, powering in a header that brought a superb save from Faultless, the keeper was up quickly to make a brave block from the loose ball.

On 27 minutes Evans picked the ball up wide right from a pass by Deakin, he came

inside before releasing Max Black in the centre of the box, he was adjudged to have been fouled and the referee pointed to the spot, Corey Curriethers making no mistake to tie the game at 1-1.

Five minutes later Clarke won a free kick on the left of the Wood box, his free kick rebounded off the defensive wall to Andrew Lewis 35 yards out, his first time rising drive superbly clawed out of his left hand corner by Faultless.

Then Kieron Westwood was played clear wide left, he raced into the centre of the box only to be stopped by a crunching tackle from Boothe to save the day for Wood.

Five minutes into the second half Westwood hit a far post cross from wide left, Andre Gonzales putting the ball behind to deny the ever dangerous Agbor.

Keenan Meakin-Richards crossed from wide left, Clarke powered in a header that was somehow kept out by Faultless, the ball falling into the path of Jason Holmes to fire home from close range.

Wood were back on terms on 58 minutes, Curriethers racing onto a ball wide left making the box before hitting a low cross that was hit first time by Black, the ball deflecting into the path of Evans who drove the ball home.

With a blizzard driving into the faces of the Mikes a ball into the right of the box by Ben Evans saw Butler race to the edge, the ball holding up in the heavy ground and the keeper only just getting down to deny the onrushing forwards, collecting a painful knock. With the lines disappearing under snow the officials called the game off.



# SPORT

**Taylor's brace**  
Wood enjoy a swift  
victory in New Year  
**Page 35**

**Failed fight**  
Battling display is not  
enough for squad  
**Page 35**



Sports Desk 01902 319531

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Rushall's comfy win over Belper

**Belper Town 0  
Rushall Olympic 3**  
IT was a happy afternoon for the Pics as they came away comfortable winners at the Evo-Stik Premier Division's bottom side Belper.

But despite dominating for most of the game, the visitors had to wait until the final 20 minutes to make it count.

Rushall found themselves unfortunate not to go in ahead at the break as they hit the woodwork twice in the first half.

After Richard Adams headed just over for the home side, Kris Taylor swung in an ambitious free-kick which Steven Leslie crashed onto Belper's bar.

Rushall made two changes with Chris Lait and veteran striker Dele Adebola replacing Taylor and Leslie which paid dividends as they went ahead not long after. Carl Palmer evaded a challenge before unleashing an arrow of a shot into the bottom left corner from 25 yards.

Adebola then hit the side netting before Williams saw his shot saved but Rushall doubled the lead soon after.

Substitute Connor Dears got on the end of Heath's cross and headed home from two yards having been denied just moments earlier.

The scoring was complete in stoppage time as Heath added a third.

## Saddlers shine with big boys

**KEEPER** Richard O'Donnell believes the Saddlers are at their best against the bigger clubs.

But O'Donnell admitted Walsall are no longer 'under the radar' with bigger clubs after handing a 3-0 beating to MK Dons recently.

"It probably did send a message out, we knew we were capable of it," said the 26-year-old former Chesterfield stopper.

"We beat Preston earlier this year 3-1 and people probably didn't see that coming."

The big teams are the ones we tend to do well against."

Dean Smith's men were due to travel to Deepdale for the first leg of the semi-final on Wednesday night.

"It will be a different one to the one we played here against them. For a start it is away from home, they have different players."

## Benteke's late winner calms Villa nerves

**Villa 1 Blackpool 0**

**CHRISTIAN** Benteke eased Aston Villa's shredding nerves as his late winner saw them creep past Blackpool.

The striker volleyed in with just two minutes of the game left to end Villa's barren Christmas and score only their second goal in six games.

But poor Villa made hard work of Blackpool, bottom of the Championship, and were jeered by their own fans for the third straight home game.

Benteke hit the post but at the other end Shay Given saved from Andrea Orlandi and

**Football**

Ishmael Miller in a match of few chances as the Tangerines held their own until the death.

Still, Villa avoided an FA Cup shock having lost to Millwall, Bradford, Sheffield United and Leyton Orient in knockout competitions under Paul Lambert.

Benteke, Alan Hutton and Tom Cleverley all started in a strong home line-up.

The Tangerines replaced Jacob Murphy, Chris Eagles and Jacob Mellis with Orlandi,

Steve Davies and Mark Waddington. Murphy had been sent back to Norwich after the loanee mocked the club on social media last week.

A muted Villa Park crowd had little to shout about during a forgettable first half, with the hosts desperate and Blackpool comfortable.

**Woeful**

Orlandi drilled a volley wide from former Wolves midfielder Jamie O'Hara's corner after 27 minutes while Villa failed to muster a shot on target.

Given turned Orlandi's deflected effort

wide 10 minutes before the break as the visitors grew in confidence.

Villa's final ball was woeful and the visitors' defence managed to squeeze the life out of the hosts' pedestrian attacks.

Cleverley fired well over before the break and Benteke hit the side netting but it was a dire first-half display from Villa.

Blackpool would have been very happy with the way the pattern of the game emerged and over an hour had been played before Villa had their first shot on target, a Carlos Sanchez effort from distance which went straight to visiting keeper Joe Lewis.

## Blues in battle to save face

**Blyth Spartans 2 Blues 3**  
**BOSS** Gary Rowett paid tribute to Blyth Spartans after Blues narrowly avoided FA Cup humiliation.

Lee Novak sparked Birmingham's revival after they trailed 2-0 to the Evo-Stik Premier side at half-time.

Two goals in as many minutes by Wesley Thomas then turned the game on its head.

Spartans captain Robbie Dale scored twice in the first half to give his side a dream advantage before Blues' class told.

After surviving two early chances for Blues striker Nikola Zigic, the hosts seized control of the game.

Dale swept home a 35th-minute opener after a cross by second-round hero Jarrett Rivers and then belted the second from the edge of the box to send the majority in the 4,400-capacity crowd wild with delight.

Spartans boss Tom Wade said: "It was a proud day for Blyth as a club and a town and days like that just underline to me how much of a pleasure it is being manager of such a great club."

"I thought we deserved to win it."

## Derby day for FA Cup draw

**ALBION** will travel to Blues for a Midlands derby in the FA Cup fourth round.

The Baggies will visit St Andrew's for the first time since March 2011, when they won 3-1 when both were Premier League sides.

Wolves will go to Premier League Sunderland if they beat Fulham in the replay. Villa face Bournemouth.

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# PLAY-OFFS JINX HAUNTS SADDLERS

**Walsall 0 Coventry 2**

**EVERY** time the Saddlers get within a whisk of the play-offs they seem to burn out – and Saturday was no exception.

Knowing that victory would put them on the fringes of the top six, if not in it, Walsall lacked puff in a substandard first half.

They lit up at times after the break, but Lady Luck deserted them as they twice hit the post and they must stub out such slow starts.

When it comes to Walsall, the play-offs, it seems, need a health warning – an addiction that is becoming a real drag.

Last season they climbed into the top six in January for one week but then fell away dramatically. A year earlier, a fantastic run between Christmas and Easter got them into contention only for the shakes to develop.

**Promotion**

It's hard to be too critical – this was a team which two months ago looked more set for a relegation fight than a promotion push. A play-off bid is not out of the question – despite this defeat, they are still only three points off sixth spot in a congested table.

With the top four conducting their own battle for the two automatic promotion places, the other two are wide open – but if one is to be Walsall's, surely these are the games they must win. There, though, is where Walsall's problems lie – now sitting 13th, their record against sides below

**Football**

them is now W2, D4, L6.

You don't make the play-offs with such statistics no matter how good you are against the better sides and it's something Walsall must remedy – starting at home to Scunthorpe this Saturday.

Before then, there is the small matter of Wednesday's Johnstone's Paint Trophy area semi-final at Preston, and Walsall must improve on this display.

A listless opening quarter-hour was epitomised by Romaine Sawyers' clumsy and needless collision with City skipper Jim O'Brien that handed Coventry a fifth-minute penalty.

Richard O'Donnell saved Marcus Tudgay's spot-kick with his legs, but the keeper could do nothing a minute later when O'Brien's 30-yard rocket flew in.

It could have been more by half-time as Tudgay outjumped three defenders to head onto the bar while O'Donnell made another cracking save to push away Matthew Pennington's close-range shot.

Cain had fired inches wide but Tudgay ended it.



James Baxendale goes for goal but the only scores came from Coventry during the cup match

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